

**Knoller paroled to Ventura County**

Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, is 'deeply saddened'; Noel is pleased.

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**One letter at a time**

LGBT lobby group needs a fundraiser to continue work.

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**Good morning, Berlin!**

9th Berlin & Beyond fest opens at the Castro.

see Arts section



# BAY AREA REPORTER

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## Rally to protest likely AIDS budget cuts

by Matthew S. Bajko

Even before Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger officially announces his draft budget for 2004-2005, AIDS activists are mobilizing to prevent what they fear will be detrimental cuts to vital services for people living with HIV and AIDS.

Last year the governor indicated he would impose an enrollment cap to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program as just one step in closing a \$14 billion budget deficit. On Friday, January 9, Schwarzenegger will release his budget proposals, which many expect will include cuts to HIV/AIDS services in addition to denying access to ADAP.

A rally in front of the state building on McAllister Street in San Francisco is planned for Tuesday, January 13 to voice opposition to the proposed cuts. Activists hope to gather at least 500 people for the protest.

"The long and short of it is that we fully expect this draft budget to be a disaster for HIV and AIDS services and health services in general. It is extremely important for the community to engage in efforts to prevent these cuts," said Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The foundation, along with Project Inform and Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Diseases, is sponsoring the rally, which will take place at noon.

ADAP provides access to treatment for low-income Californians living with HIV/AIDS who are uninsured or lack adequate prescription drug coverage. Activists argue the program is a lifeline for those who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford treatment and needs to be fully funded.

Instead, Schwarzenegger has proposed that ADAP enrollment be capped at its current level of 23,500 people. It is estimated that more than 1,440 people with HIV or AIDS would be placed on a waiting list for critical HIV medications within one year.

For fiscal year 2003, the state budgeted \$186 million for ADAP, but activists estimated \$24 million more was needed. For fiscal year 2004, AIDS activists predict the program needs an additional \$45 million to be fully funded, but they doubt such an increase will be included in the governor's budget proposal. They also warn other HIV programs funded by the state could be cut.

"Beyond that, whether he will propose

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## LGBT student lawsuit settled for \$1.1M

### School district agrees to pay damages, make policy changes

by Zak Szymanski



Alana Flores, left, and Freddie Fuentes, at Tuesday's news conference announcing the settlement with the Morgan Hill Unified School District.

## Potty time

### Gender activism tackles the porcelain frontier

by Zak Szymanski

Going to the bathroom: we all have to do it. When the moment strikes, most of us take it for granted. The rules are simple: find the room where you belong, and relieve yourself. Any further in-house socializing — from borrowing a tampon to cruising at the urinals

— are simply added affirmations that you are in your correct place.

And yet for a sizable portion of the LGBT community — as well as any person whose physical presentation does not conform to gender norms — this simple biological act is the source of numerous social pitfalls and dangers. From the butch lesbian to the visibly transgender person, entering a sex segregated

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Unisex bathrooms, like this one at the LGBT Community Center, mean that the identities of transgenders like this person, above, cannot be challenged when nature calls.

**A** lawsuit against a South Bay school district for its role in allowing its students to be beaten, harassed, and abused on the basis of antigay bigotry has been settled, with a monetary award of \$1.1 million as well as a groundbreaking set of school policy agreements that should help to ensure the safety of LGBT students nationwide.

*Flores v. Morgan Hill Unified School District* was officially settled on Tuesday, January 6. At an emotional news conference held that morning at the San Francisco office of the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, lead plaintiff Alana Flores expressed gratitude, relief, and lingering pain over the years of her life that were simultaneously held captive and enriched by her high school experience and the ensuing five-year legal battle.

"I never wanted to sue my school district. I just wanted equality," said Flores, 24, explaining that she stepped up on behalf of herself as well as other students — a total of six were represented in the case — because she knew it was the right thing to do.

Flores' attorneys included the ACLU; the National Center for Lesbian Rights; and co-operating attorneys Stacey Wexler, Christine Sun, and Jay Kuo of Keker & Van Nest, LLP of San Francisco; James Emery of San Francisco; Diane Ritchie of San Jose; and Leslie Levy of Boxer and Gerson in Oakland.

Flores, who thanked her legal team, her family, and her supporters, also thanked "those who stood before me and said I did not deserve these rights — they gave me the case to fight for myself."

The lawsuit was filed in 1998 on behalf of students who attended Live Oak High School, Britton Middle School, and Murphy Middle School from 1991-98. It charged that the students endured daily harassment and abuse from other students while teachers, employees, and administrators witnessed the abuse and did nothing to stop it.

Instances included, according to the case, physical violence endured by Freddie

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# Panel nixes parole for Rosenkrantz

by Ed Walsh

**I**t's freedom denied for gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz.

In a surprise move, the parole board decided against granting Rosenkrantz's release at the conclusion of his parole hearing on Monday, January 5. The hearing was held at the California Men's Colony prison in San Luis Obispo where Rosenkrantz is serving time.

He has been incarcerated since his arrest for murder in Los Angeles County in 1985. Rosenkrantz shot and killed a schoolmate who physically attacked him on the night of his high school graduation and ousted him to his father. He was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 17-years-to-life. With "good time" credits Rosenkrantz has been eligible for parole since 1996.

The parole board's rejection comes as a surprise because Rosenkrantz's attorneys had insisted that the board is still under court order to release him. Rosenkrantz's current lawyer, Dennis Riordan, is expected to

challenge the board's ruling. Riordan is a well-known San Francisco appellate attorney. He represented dog mauling convict Marjorie Knoller during the post-conviction stage of her case when a judge tossed out her second-degree murder conviction.

Riordan did not return the Bay Area Reporter's calls by press time.

Two superior court judges and two appeals court panels indepen-

parole.

Bill Sessa, a spokesman for the Board of Prison Terms, as the parole board is formally named, told the B.A.R. that it is the BPT's position that those earlier court rulings are no longer valid.

Rosenkrantz's case became a cause célèbre for prisoners' rights advocates during the Davis administration. Davis blocked his release and appealed four inde-

## The parole board's rejection comes as a surprise...

dently ruled that Rosenkrantz has been illegally denied parole. Those rulings called for the parole board to find Rosenkrantz suitable for parole and set a parole date. But the state appealed each of those rulings before Rosenkrantz could be freed.

Rosenkrantz's attorneys have insisted those court rulings are still in effect despite a ruling by the California Supreme Court in 2002 that gave then-governor Gray Davis a free hand to block

pendent court rulings that found that Rosenkrantz had been illegally denied parole.

In his five years in office, Davis approved the parole of only eight of the 294 prisoners whose release was approved by the parole board. The board, whose members are appointed by the governor, has only approved parole for about 1 percent of eligible prisoners.

Since taking office in November, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has taken a more lenient stance on parole and has approved the release of about half of the cases that have reached his desk.

Rosenkrantz's parole has been endorsed by the now-retired detective who arrested him, his original trial judge, and the late grandmother of the victim, Steve Redman. Redman's surviving family formally opposed Rosenkrantz's parole for the first time in 2000, writing in a letter to the parole board that he should serve at least the minimum of his 17-years-to-life sentence. The Redman family has declined the B.A.R.'s interview requests.

Sessa said Rosenkrantz will be up for another parole hearing next year. ▼

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# Local queer activist detained in Israel

by Zak Szymanski

On Tuesday, January 6, protesters demonstrated in front of San Francisco's Israeli Consulate on behalf of a Bay Area queer woman who was reportedly arrested in the West Bank for her pro-Palestinian activism.

According to news reports, Kate Raphael, a longtime Jewish lesbian activist who has been organizing against the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian territories, was arrested on December 31 during a demonstration intended to stop Israel from constructing a wall around the village of Budrus. The barrier, say some activists, is an "Apartheid Wall" that will further ghettoize Palestinians and restrict their access to necessary services. Israel supporters say the wall is necessary for security.

Raphael faces deportation and has pledged to resist such a move in order to continue her work in Palestine. Tuesday's demonstration demanded that Raphael be released and allowed to stay in Palestine to continue her nonviolent activism as part of the "Neighbor to Neighbor" project promoting Israeli-Palestinian understanding.

"Ms. Raphael maintains that she has done nothing wrong and that Israel is trying to expel her from the country as part of an effort to stop international scrutiny of its actions in the occupied ter-



Pickets at the Israeli Consulate Tuesday protest the arrest of Kate Raphael.

ritories," said an activist statement on behalf of Raphael. "Israel has increasingly sought to deny entry to or deport foreign human rights and humanitarian workers.

Amnesty International and other international organizations have decried Israel's increasing interference with and violence toward

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# Smith 'deeply saddened' over Knoller release

by Ed Walsh

**S**haron Smith, the partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, said she is "deeply saddened" by the release of Marjorie Knoller, the woman convicted in connection with the fatal attack in January 2001. Meanwhile, Knoller's husband, Robert Noel, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he is pleased "beyond words" that Knoller is free but he insisted that he and Knoller are being treated unfairly because they are being paroled apart.

Knoller walked out of state prison in Chowchilla, in Central California, on New Year's Day. She was picked up by friends and driven to Southern California where she will serve her three-year parole term. Noel was paroled in September to Fairfield, about an hour northeast of San Francisco.

The couple was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in March 2002 after prosecutors successfully convinced jurors that the attorney couple ignored warnings that their two Presa Canario dogs were dangerous. Knoller, who was with the dogs during the attack, was also found guilty of second-degree murder but a judge later tossed out that conviction.

"Because of Marjorie's wanton and woeful disregard for human life I lost the person I loved most in the world," Smith said in a



she didn't know what she was going to do in Southern California.

Noel told the *B.A.R.* this week that he has been able to talk with Knoller over the phone. He said she is being dealt with in a similar way that he was when he was released. Noel said she is being temporarily housed in a motel in Ventura County. When Noel was paroled in Fairfield, he was housed in a motel in a high-crime section of the city. He eventually moved out after finding work and an apartment.

A Department of Corrections spokesman, Russ Heimerich, told the *B.A.R.* that as a matter of policy, convicted co-defendants are paroled separately and exceptions are not made for married couples. Noel disputed that. He said that he's seen other cases in which a husband and wife were allowed to serve parole together despite being involved in the same crime.

Cardozo told the *B.A.R.* that Noel has nothing to complain about.

"At the end of three years, he will be able to get back with Marjorie," the attorney said. "At no time will Sharon during this lifetime be able to get back with Diane Alexis Whipple because of what Noel and Knoller did. His complaint is rather shallow and falls on deaf ears. It just makes one realize what a self-centered person he is." ▼

statement released through her attorney, Michael Cardozo. "The jury brought back second-degree murder which carries a 15-year-to-life sentence. Marjorie would have another 11 years to serve if the judge had not overturned the jury verdict. That would certainly be more commensurate for the type of crime she committed."

Shortly after being released, Knoller told KTVU-TV in an off-camera interview that she was unhappy about being freed because

# Ephedra ban sparks rush on retailers

by Ed Walsh

**C**onsumers flocked to health food stores throughout California last week to buy ephedra before the statewide ban of the herbal supplement took effect on January 1, 2004. The last-minute rush did not go unnoticed in at least one Castro District store whose clientele are predominantly gay men.

A steady stream of customers buying the supplement touted as a weight loss and workout aid kept salesclerks busy at Max Muscle on 16th Street, said the store's owner, James Johnson. The store stayed open late on New Year's Eve to meet the demand. Many customers bought three or four bottles of the product at a time, Johnson said. The owner estimated that about 95 percent of his ephedra customers are gay men.

Rich Weeks, a Max Muscle employee, said that about half of the customers use the product to lose weight and the other half use it for extra energy and to enhance workouts. Weeks estimates that the store's biggest seller, a product called Liquid Clenbuterol, was promoted and used by people as a pre-workout stimulant. He said some customers use it as an energy booster to meet a busy work schedule.

The owner of another Castro business, Nutri-Sport on Market Street, told the *Bay Area Reporter* last week that it would follow California's lead and ban ephedra nationwide. That federal ban is ex-

pected to take effect in about three months. Manufacturers are expected to challenge the ban in court.

The law that banned ephedra in California was authored by state Senator Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco/San Mateo.)

"We can't afford to put any more consumers at risk," Speier wrote in a press release issued just after the bill was signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in October 2003. "Ephedra is dangerous, even deadly. It is neither safe nor effective."

"Dietary supplements are largely unregulated by the FDA and treated more like foods than drugs – no testing is done on their safety and effectiveness before being sold," Speier continued. "Supplement companies also do not have to forward consumer health complaints to health authorities. Ephedra is a strong stimulant known as 'legal speed' to many experts. The NFL, NCAA and the International Olympic Committee have all banned ephedra. Major League Baseball recently banned ephedra for minor-league players and the issue is under discussion with big-league players. Illinois and New York banned ephedra with unanimous bipartisan support."

The California ban was endorsed by the California Medical Association, Consumers Union, and a number of other public health advocates. ▼

# Cauley wants to be mayor's AIDS czar

by Matthew S. Bajko

tanding among the onlookers today (Thursday, January 8) at Mayor Gavin Newsom's swearing-in ceremony will be transgender activist Veronika Cauley, who hopes to be named the city's new AIDS czar.

"I guess I would be called the czarina," Cauley told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a phone interview Tuesday, January 6.

As questions persist on the fate of the Mayor's Office of AIDS, Cauley said not only is the position needed, but that it was time someone other than a white man be given the job.

"We really need somebody of color. We need a woman. We need a transgender woman and we need an African American. And I am the one," said Cauley. "It ought to have somebody other than a white man from the same old usual suspects."

Since outgoing Mayor Willie Brown created the office in 1999, three gay men, all HIV-positive, have held the post. For over two years the office has largely been dormant since Mike Shriver took a leave of absence in the fall of 2001 due to health concerns.

With the position vacant for so long, critics of the office have said the city can live without it and the \$50,000-a-year salary would be better spent on services. Supporters of the position argue an AIDS czar can serve a vital role in HIV policy debates and lobbying both Sacramento and Washington D.C. for AIDS funding.

During the campaign Newsom indicated he would tap someone locally to head the office. As part of his transition process, Newsom assembled a team of community members to review health and human services issues. Jim Illig, who headed up the committee, said that in the 12-page official report turned over to Newsom, the issue of the AIDS czar did not come up.

"It didn't get in there," Illig said.

It is, however, addressed in one of 12 appendices attached to the report. In the Survive AIDS Transition Advisory Document, compiled by Jeff Sheehy, the group recommends that the mayor "restore and empower the position of special assistant to the mayor for HIV/AIDS."

The group also advises the person should be someone who understands the HIV epidemic, be from San Francisco, and have "access and the ear of the mayor."

A separate appendix submitted by John Stansell, director of S.F. General Hospital's Positive Health Program, does not address the AIDS czar position but does advise that the city needs a strong advocate in Sacramento.

He writes that the Department of Public Health needs to "become a voice in Sacramento around HIV issues. Failure to do so has ceded the HIV agenda to others."

With the Ryan White CARE Act up for reauthorization this year, AIDS activists argue an AIDS czar could play a national role in congressional lobbying efforts. And the person could be a key voice in Sacramento, where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed capping enrollment to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program and is expected to make cuts



Veronika Cauley

Jane Philomen O'Neil

supervisor."

Cauley ran for District 8 supervisor in 2002 but withdrew from that race when she ran out of money. She went on to become a vocal transgender activist. She has forged ties with both the police department and sheriff's office, where she does sensitivity training on transgender issues.

As for why she would like to be tapped as the new AIDS czar, Cauley said, "Transgenders need to be seen as more than just street walkers. I can make a difference in that office."

Cauley, a former member of the HIV Health Services Planning Council, at first glance is an unlikely candidate to head the new mayor's Office of AIDS. Although Brown, who endorsed Newsom as his replacement, tapped Cauley to serve on the Veterans Affairs Commission, Cauley was a vocal supporter of Newsom mayoral opponent Matt Gonzalez during last fall's race.

Cauley said her support for Gonzalez was due to the fact she is a Green Party member. And she said she considers the mayor's wife, Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsom, a friend. The assistant district attorney spoke on Cauley's 2002 Transgenders in the Law panel.

Cauley said she is waiting for Newsom to return her call.

"Hopefully Gavin, if he is going to fund the position and keep the position, I hope Gavin makes it me. He won't be sorry because I love the city as much as he claims to," she said. ▶

Cauley argues she has the experience needed not only to challenge local HIV policies but also in convincing lawmakers to fund AIDS programs. The job she said "is a lot bigger than lobbying just for more money. It has to do with policies set up around HIV and AIDS and how those can be changed and how they fund cities can be changed."

HIV-positive since at least 1989, Cauley pulled herself out of a life as a prostitute, overcame a crack addiction, and moved off the streets to become a nurse and founder of TAAAPP, the Transgender AIDS Advocacy Advancement Peer Project. In 1999 Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund awarded her an A on its World AIDS Day Report Card and said she "seems on track to becoming the city's first transgender

After being sworn in as the city's mayor Thursday at 11:30 a.m., Newsom will hold an open house in City Hall to meet constituents until 2 p.m. He will also be in the Castro at 5 p.m. at Catch Restaurant on Market Street to meet residents of District 8.

## Pat Bond Award Committee hosts reception Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

Organizers of the Pat Bond Old Dyke Award will host a reception this Sunday, January 11 in advance of the award event in March.

At the reception, to take place at 3 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Senior Housing complex, 145 Guerrero Street in San Francisco, past awardees will be on hand along with the current nominees. The biennial event honors lesbians over 60 who have not been sufficiently recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to the LGBT community and the larger community in which they live.

Honorary co-chairs for this year's award committee are lesbian pioneers Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. This year's benefit is being sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

At Sunday's reception, the Mother tongue Feminist Theatre Collective will perform; the event is free.

On February 7, the committee will host the Vintage Pat Bond Video Show, featuring plays written and performed by the late Pat

Bond on video, including *Gerty Gerty Stein is Back Back Back and Lorena & Eleanor, A Love Story*. That event takes place from 2-5 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero Street, San Francisco. There is a suggested donation of \$10-\$15, though no one will be turned away.

The award ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, March 28, starting with a reception at 3:30 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Avenue, in Berkeley. The suggested donation is \$15-\$25, but no one will be turned away.

Pat Bond, after whom the award is named, went into the hospital in the fall of 1990. Assuming she would be returning home, her friends raised money for her home care. But Ms. Bond died December 24, 1990. The money raised became the seed money for the Pat Bond Old Dyke Awards.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this year's event, organizers said. To make a donation or for more information, call (415) 392-6257, ext. 321, e-mail [patbondaward@yahoo.com](mailto:patbondaward@yahoo.com), or visit [www.patbondaward.com](http://www.patbondaward.com). ▶



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## OPEN FORUM

## Britney's wedding

**O**ops, she did it again. Pop tart Britney Spears caused a worldwide media sensation last weekend when she married a 22-year-old childhood friend at a wedding chapel in Las Vegas. Some 55 hours after the early Saturday morning nuptials, however, Ms. Spears and her husband, one Jason Allen Alexander, decided it was all just one big joke and promptly had the marriage annulled.

So much for the "sanctity" of marriage that the right-wing, antigay religious conservatives are always screaming about.

Almost four years ago, in the weeks before California voters approved the Knight initiative that defines marriage in the state as being solely between a man and a woman, the Fox television network brought us *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?*, the show that of course has spawned numerous imitations of marriage as a reality game. In its latest incarnation, Fox is gearing up for its sure-to-be-tacky *My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiancé* reality program, complete with actors playing the "fiancée's" family. Now there's family values for you.

Between Ms. Spears's admission that she and Mr. Alexander "took a joke too far by getting married" and sensational fake television programs aimed at seeing which people will make bigger fools of themselves in the quest to "get engaged" and win a cash prize or "get married" for money, we believe that those opposed to gay marriage have enough work to do if they really want marriage "protected."

But they don't. Protecting marriage isn't the issue to them — denying equality to same-sex couples who want a marriage license is their primary goal, and they should stop with the disingenuous arguments and just say that they're homophobes. Let fair-minded Americans see them for what they really are: a bunch of closed-minded bigots who want to destroy gay relationships and gay families in their twisted belief that God hates gays.

If they were truly determined to "save" marriage, the religious right would have been picketing Fox television four years ago, protesting about how marriage is a religious institution to be taken seriously and not some midseason replacement show to generate ratings and profits. They did not.

Fast-forward four years: where were the Christian conservatives when Ms. Spears basically made a mockery of marriage? Curiously, as far as we can tell they have been silent. No condemnations from Pat Robert-

son (who did manage to declare on his *700 Club* show the other day that God had spoken to him and told him President Bush would be re-elected in a blowout come this November), no barbs from Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), that defender of all things heterosexual. Nothing.

Bush and the Republicans do, however, continue to put us in their crosshairs, talking up support for the Federal Marriage Amendment that would add a ban on gay marriage to the Constitution. The amendment is wrong and a lot of conservatives know it — several, in fact, have come out against the proposal that has been introduced in Congress. But religious conservatives know that by keeping the heat up, Bush's political base remains energized to help him in his re-election bid even as post-war reconstruction in Iraq continues to cost American troops their lives and the economy here at home remains murky. The Republicans are also using gay marriage as a way to attack the Democratic candidates for president. While none of the major Democratic candidates favor gay marriage, many are supportive of civil unions or domestic partnerships, and

that's at least a first step.

The folks who hysterically lambaste same-sex couples always point to "protecting" marriage. If gays are allowed to marry, they say, the institution of marriage will be forever diminished. We have some questions: What could be more demeaning than to marry someone as a joke? What does that message send to Ms. Spears's legions of teenage fans? What message does it send to the thousands of gay and lesbian couples who would give anything to marry their partners?

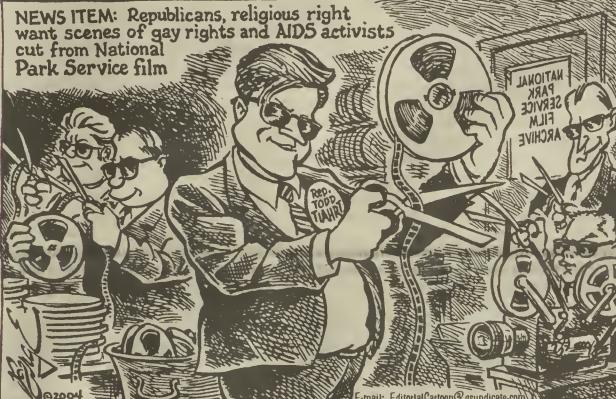
Here's a news flash: marriage is being regularly cheapened, courtesy of the hets. We see it everyday in advertising that exploits marriage to sell products. We see it in the countless reality television programs that are not "real" at all. We saw it last weekend with the spectacle of Britney Spears and Jason Allen Alexander getting hitched one morning and annulling the marriage the next.

At the end of the day, however, Ms. Spears and Mr. Alexander were legally married for 55 hours. That's more than any same-sex couple living in the United States can say.

There's something very wrong with this picture. ▼

## Editorial

**NEWS ITEM: Republicans, religious right want scenes of gay rights and AIDS activists cut from National Park Service film**



## Bob Ross was a builder

by Ray O'Loughlin

**W**hen Bob Ross marched in the mid-1960s carrying a sign demanding civil rights for homosexuals, there was no safety in numbers. There were no numbers then. And absolutely no safety. What we know as the movement for LGBT rights, and the community that supports that movement, was a dream back then. It took enormous courage for those first individuals to step forward and publicly identify themselves as gay. Often they stood alone, inviting the wrath of a culture that not only did not understand homosexuality but was hostile to any notion of respect for lesbians and gays.

San Francisco was not always the haven for LGBT folks that it has become. And it is people like Bob Ross who went public and put lesbian and gay rights on the agenda. Bob was a complex man, in some ways truly a San Francisco character along with Jose Sarria, the Widow Norton, another pioneer in San Francisco gay history. But he definitely belongs in a class with Harvey Milk for his role in bringing this community to life and leading it into the halls of power.

Bob Ross could be a hard man to work with — and to work for. Many days I would walk out of my office as news editor of the *Bay Area Reporter* and wonder how I could work for such a temperamental, demanding man. But I knew why I worked for him. It was the most exciting place in SF to work. And despite some stormy times, I had a lot

of respect for Bob. Doing what he had done a decade or more before I had come out always left me in awe of the sheer nerve of such a trailblazer.

In many ways, too, he was an editor's dream of a publisher. He kept out of the newsroom. One time I ran a story about a lesbian and gay group traveling down to Nicaragua in the late 1980s to help rebuild that tiny country torn apart by years of brutal civil war. Bob never demanded any advance approval of stories that ran in the news section but he didn't hesitate to express his opinion after something appeared that he thought awful. He told me in his usual vehement fashion — he never bothered with subtleties — that he thought that piece was a waste of time. They had no business going to Nicaragua and who cared if they did. I disagreed. And when I ran another story about the group's experiences there, he didn't say a word.

He left the news to the news staff. Bob took care of the business — which he did very well — and he took care of the politics — which he liked even better. He was committed to building San Francisco's community and did that in many ways as an organizer and a fundraiser. A number of institutions in this town owe their existence in part to Bob: the Tavern Guild, the SF AIDS Foundation, the AIDS Emergency Fund.

He also clearly understood the role played by a vibrant media in building a vibrant and multifaceted community. Like

Harvey Milk, Bob understood political power and how you get it and use it. He had done his time on picket lines. By the time I knew him, he wasn't interested in criticizing power from outside. He wanted to be inside where things happened, where decisions were made, where the goodies were parceled out.

It's dangerous going after power. You might get it. But like many a frustrated 1960s protester, I was sick and tired of demanding justice in some ideal state and seeing few results. I was glad to see people in our community like Harvey Milk, Bill Krause, and Bob Ross who got their hands dirty and showed the pols they knew how to play the game. They made the lesbian and gay community a force to be reckoned with in San Francisco and Sacramento and in the Democratic Party.

I am sorry that I cannot make it to Bob's memorial. I imagine it will be a great reunion of many of the talented and committed men and women I remember working with at the B.A.R. I imagine there will be some terrific stories told. All of them probably true. From the stories Bob told me about his exploits, I wouldn't doubt any, especially the most outrageous. Bob Ross, with his talents and his faults, was crucial to the success we now enjoy as a community. ▼

## Guest Opinion

Ray O'Loughlin was news editor at the B.A.R. from 1985 to 1989.

**Deny Spears's annulment**

I have recently become extremely outraged by our country's view on "the marriage issue." Personally, I feel that the gay, lesbian, and transgender communities have had to assimilate entirely too much to the straight community, and marriage is not an issue I would actually consider for myself. However, the fact that our commander in chief and his right-wing cronies believe that we, as gay, lesbian, and transgender Americans should not have the right to make that choice is a blow to us all that needs to be addressed during the upcoming election.

Now adding insult to injury, pop icon diva (and I use this term loosely), little Britney Spears has given us another example of just how sacred the act of marriage is to most of the straight community. Fifty-five hours of marriage "until we realized what we had done." Frankly I think the couple should have been denied an annulment, making them realize what they truly had done.

With examples like this to emulate, how can anyone dare object to the queer community having the same rights as other tax-paying Americans. We do pay taxes, don't we? Please remember this while we are all considering a new leader for the country. I wonder what would happen if every gay, lesbian, and transgender person just didn't file taxes this year. I say if we are to be treated as second-class citizens, why not act like it!

Emery Frank  
San Francisco

**Must be the new math**

Wayne Friday's harangue against Tim Redmond and the *Bay Guardian* contains the mystifying recounting of the final election numbers as: "Gavin Newsom 133,546 votes (52.81 percent); Matt Gonzalez 105,617 (43.51 percent)." ("Is Howard Dean the inevitable nominee?" *Our Man Friday, January 1*). Hmmm, my calculator shows that 52.81 plus 43.51 equals 96.32, not 100 percent. The official results posted on the SF DOE site does show the above-stated number for Newsom, but the Gonzalez vote total was 119,329, or 47.19 percent. One way to look at this: had only about 7,000 voters gone to Gonzalez instead of Newsom, then the election ends with a Gonzalez victory (not a far-fetched idea since exit polls showed large numbers of voters made their decision at the very last minute).

If one were to actually read the *Guardian's* analysis of the election, one would be hard pressed not to appreciate the many victories that truly were achieved by Gonzalez's remarkable campaign, not the least of which is the fact that he actually won the popular vote on election day. Notwithstanding the possible effects of the late notification of the availability of absentee ballots to the Gonzalez campaign, one must wonder what the outcome would have been had the Gonzalez camp spent nearly \$4 million, had been operating for more than a year prior to the general election, and had the active – and desperately intrusive – support of a national political party, which paraded its Big Boys out in the waning moments of the race. But that was not what the Gonzalez campaign was about. Gonzalez was right to offer gracious congratulations to Newsom for his victory; however, I would join Tim Redmond and about 119,327 other San Francisco voters in saying that Gonzalez was a huge winner, even without winning the election.

Eric Politzer  
San Francisco

**AIDS czar position needed**

Anyone who questions whether the city can afford a single \$50,000 per year AIDS czar position, ("AIDS czar position up in air," January 1) even if Mayor-elect Gavin Newsom is facing a \$160 million budget deficit for the fiscal year set to begin next July, needs their head examined.

In the two-plus years that San Francisco's AIDS czar position has been vacant, the city has paid bonuses approaching \$4 million to approximately 700 city managers. During the same two years, the 2,900-plus city employees earning in excess of \$90,000 annually have been paid salaries totaling in excess of \$660 million (at about \$330 million annually). The city has 102 information systems project directors, IS managers, and other IS directors, paid \$12 million annually. Another example: we have 32 hospital administrators and four medical directors for just two hospitals (SFGH and Laguna Honda) who, combined, are paid \$4.5 million annually.

Between this \$16.5 million, surely the new mayor could cut some of the patronage fat to keep an AIDS czar. As well, recently DPH's AIDS Office was bloated with 170 employees. Newsom has the tool to fund this position: Last November's Proposition F, targeted early retirement, passed by the voters. All he needs to do is offer some of these bloated positions early retirement to get them off the payroll in order to fund the czar position.

And in the past two fiscal years, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has paid out, at minimum, \$22.4 million in grants and grants payable to its African af-

filiate, Pangaea, even as SFAF receives city General Fund contracts. Surely San Francisco can afford a \$50,000 to \$75,000 AIDS czar.

While DPH keeps claiming that the AIDS czar's job duties have been absorbed within DPH, I have filed repeated public records requests attempting to obtain the follow-up reports Mike Shriver was to have authored following the Mayor's 1998 AIDS summit; DPH keeps telling me they have "no documents responsive to your request," indicating that both Shriver and DPH have failed to author several policy papers for the Office of the Mayor.

Jimmy Joyce, director of the AIDS office, was quoted in the June 12, 2003 B.A.R. that "[The czar vacancy] is a huge hole. I don't know that we can fill it." Angela Alioto was quoted in the same issue that "[Shriver] would be the first person to say the job needs to be getting done." Clearly, notable people believe the position should be retained. Personally, despite being a vocal critic of the former incumbent, I believe the position should be paid \$75,000 (but no higher), as are the Board of Supervisors' legislative assistants, and it should be a permanent position independent of DPH, not a contract position through DPH-UCSF.

Your "anonymous" source in the January 1 article has it completely backwards: Shriver did not do a "decent" job in the position; he may have had activist credentials, but he failed to complete an unabridged HIV Consensus Meeting report, and failed to issue the follow-on reports to "Promises Kept," the report from the Mayor's 1998 AIDS Summit. And "anonymous" has it further backwards about Mitch Katz:

When Katz talks about cutting DPH programs, it is not "based on science and need," it's based on playing brinkmanship, the game he learned from Willie Brown, pitting the city's most vulnerable one against another. Katz threatens cuts in order to scare up more General Fund dollars for DPH's bloated budget.

I wouldn't be the least bit sorry to see Katz replaced, even if he is gay; I would be sorry to see the czar position eliminated, because that position should, in part, be providing checks and balances to propaganda emanating from Katz's bloated AIDS Office.

Patrick Monette-Shaw  
San Francisco

**Doesn't like new lighting plan**

Concerned about Dolores Street looking like Geary Boulevard? Attend the upcoming SF PUC meeting on Tuesday, January 13 at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall Room 400.

Residents are highly concerned about street lighting to be installed the length of Dolores Street early this year. This is the final step of very welcome utility undergrounding in that neighborhood. However, the light fixtures were selected with no local community input and are historically inconsistent and energy inefficient. SF's Public Utilities Commission selected modern aluminum cobra light fixtures for Dolores Street, similar to those used on Geary Boulevard, unlike the historic fixtures used in the adjacent neighborhoods of Dolores Heights and Liberty Hill and throughout Dolores Park itself.

Various groups of neighbors oppose this selection, and have asked the PUC to substitute energy efficient high lighting historical fixtures, which have been created for use throughout other parts of the city – for example, Van Ness Avenue, the Embarcadero, and upper Market Street – including its intersection with Dolores Street. We are asking the PUC to take notice of such features as Dolores Street is part of the 49 Mile Scenic Drive and the address for among other highlights, the oldest existing building in San Francisco – Mission Dolores. The Dolores Heights Improvement Association and the Eureka Valley Promotion Association have been approached to take stands against this plan.

Please send your opinion to Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who is attempting to work with the city's Department of Public Works to overturn the PUC's decision, at bevan.dufy@sfgov.org and consider attending the upcoming SF PUC meeting on Tuesday, January 13.

Charlie Spiegel  
San Francisco

**Supports Trannyshack**

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It's what makes it brilliant and worthwhile. Blackface is and was a farce perpetrated on blacks by a savage and stupid dominant culture. And Heklina, Glamamore, Fauxnique et. al. know farce (and a savage dominant culture) when they see it.

Keep it up, boys and girls.

Liam Passmore  
San Francisco

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# Transgender 2004

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

There's no better time to prognosticate on the year to come than January. Twelve fresh months await us, full of promise and possibility. It's a time for fresh starts, and few know about new beginnings better than those within the transgender community.

From a personal standpoint, I look forward to the coming year. It's not that I had a bad time in 2003. Not at all, I had many wonderful experiences throughout the year. It's simply that 2004 may well be the time to see the things started last year come to full fruit.

The same may well be true for the transgender community overall. The year 2003 was an amazing year as far as transgender rights were concerned, with some of our biggest rights gains to date. A smattering of states, including California and New Mexico, passed transgender rights bills. Other places included transgender hate crime protections.

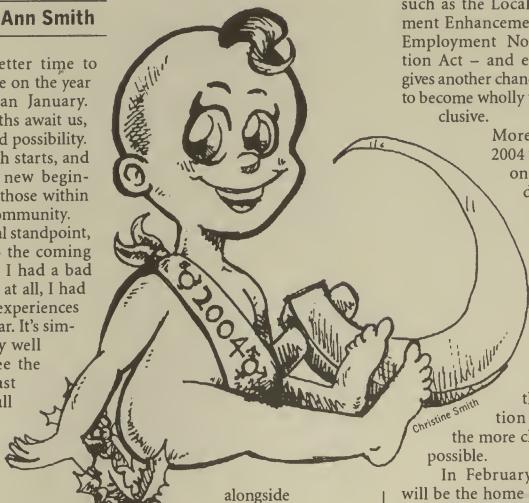
Another such rights victory is yet to come, with the gender recognition bill currently being debated in the United Kingdom. This bill, brought on by a European court ruling, would allow British transsexuals to finally marry members of the opposite sex, as well as gain state benefits appropriate to their gender identity.

It is not without its opponents, who promise to fight the bill, but it looks set to pass with few major modifications.

For most transsexuals in the United States, the right to marry a member of the opposite sex has existed for decades. It was not until the disastrous Christie Lee Littleton case in 2000 that the issue of transsexual marriage hit the spotlight.

2003 saw a glimmer of hope after Littleton's and J'Noel Gardner's losses in this arena, with the custody win of Michael Kantaras of Florida. The decision in this case took over a year to write, and not only provided clear custody to this female-to-male father, but made it clear as to the nature of Mr. Kantaras's gender.

This new year may see an appeal on the part of Kantaras's ex-wife, Linda, as well as further struggles on the part of transpeople everywhere to continue to secure their own rights to marry



alongside those fighting against ever-strengthening "defense of marriage" laws.

Last year did see an increase in the number of reported antitransgender murder cases – 16 within the United States, and 33 worldwide. These are unpleasant figures, but I take heart in both an heightened level of awareness into this issue, coupled with an increase in the number of arrests for these crimes. In Washington, D.C., for example, three reported deaths ended up with three arrests; in many

years past, such cases may never have been acted upon.

One of the highlights of 2003 – if "highlight" is the right word – was the preliminary hearing into the brutal murder of East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo. After days of difficult and jarring testimony, three of her accused killers were held over for trial, with one defendant losing his attempt at bail in the process.

The Araujo case will again be news in March 2004, as the three alleged murderers get their day in court. [A fourth defendant pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter midway through the preliminary hearing and testified against his former friends in exchange for an 11-year prison term.]

Of course, it would be a grave omission not to mention the upcoming presidential election, with a Democratic front-runner who – so far – has not been afraid to use the "T" word. It remains to be seen if the next president will have a last name that, while four letters long, does not begin with the letter "B."

Such a "regime change" could bode well for long-stalled bills

such as the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act – and every new year gives another chance for these bills to become wholly transgender inclusive.

More than all this, 2004 will again build on the good deeds done by transgender activists in 2003 and many previous years. As more transgender people become visible and speak up, the more education gets done and the more change becomes possible.

In February, Los Angeles will be the home of the first all-transgender cast of the *Vagina Monologues*, complete with a new transgender-specific monologue by the playwright herself, Eve Ensler.

2004 will also be the 10-year anniversary of the formation of Transsexual Menace, one of the pioneering modern transgender rights organizations. If anything, one can look back at the works the group did a decade ago, and see how those scant drops of water still make ripples we see today.

Like Transsexual Menace, I can look back this year on all I've done since 1994: it was November of that year that I began to live full-time in my current gender. A lot of road has passed beneath my feet since then, but there is very little I'll ever look back on with regret. Least of which will be my own involvement with the ongoing fight for continued and stronger acceptance of transgender and gender variant people in society as a whole.

Indeed, 2004 serves as a milestone for those of us who have long fought for transgender rights to finally get a moment to take a look back and see how far we truly have progressed in the last decade. I suspect we've all gone farther in these few years than we ever thought possible way back then.

That alone will be a big part of 2004. The seeds that were planted – whether it was a decade ago or just in the year past – are now maturing into healthy plants. With that in mind, 2004 could well be a bumper crop for the transgender community at large. ▼

Gwen Smith wishes her readers a happy and prosperous new year. You can find her on the Web at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

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by Zak Szymanski

Come in your finest chaps or come as you are, but come to San Francisco's famous Daddy's bar this Saturday to experience all the history, culture, and socializing that go into leather relationships and community.

On January 10 from 4-7 p.m. at Daddy's, leather writer and publisher Robert Davolt will host a book release party for *Painfully Obvious: An Irreverent & Unauthorized Manual For Leather/SM*,

a collection of 40 of his essays from LeatherPage.com.

Davolt, a well-known writer since 1975, was the last publisher and editor of *Drummer* magazine and the executive producer and coordinator of the International Drummer Contests. His current columns for LeatherPage.com and *Bound & Gagged* magazine attract more than 125,000 readers.

*Painfully Obvious* is Davolt's "orthodox" look at leather relationships, community, contests, business, tradition, history, and leadership, and the book includes

fashion tips and social rules as researched and witnessed. The book's introduction is written by Minneapolis columnist Steve Lenius and the foreword is provided by International Mr. Leather 1996 and LeatherPage publisher Joe Gallagher.

Guests at Saturday's party will have a chance to buy a signed first edition, with proceeds benefiting the Leather Archive and Museum in Chicago. Individual copies are \$16.95 and are also available at [www.daedaluspublishing.com](http://www.daedaluspublishing.com). Daddy's bar is located at 440 Castro Street. ▼

## Book release benefit at Daddy's this Sat.

# CA primary could decide Dem nominee

by Wayne Friday

If, as some feel is possible, former Vermont Governor **Howard Dean** manages to win either or both the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary later this month, the race for the Democratic nomination for president could be all but over.

A Dean victory, however, is by no means a certainty in Iowa, where neighboring Representative **Richard Gephardt** (D-Missouri) has to be considered by some as at least a slight favorite to win on January 19, and even a first-place finish in the January 27 first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary wouldn't necessarily assure Dean of the nomination.

So, the February 3 date, when seven states hold either primaries or caucuses, followed by other important large-state primaries (Michigan, Wisconsin, Virginia) later in February, could possibly, but not necessarily, produce enough committed delegates to deliver the nomination to any of the Democrats in the race. In that event, the all-important March 2 California primary, with its huge chunk of 370 delegates, would certainly play a key role, if not the decisive role, in deciding who the Democrats pick to oppose **George W. Bush** in November.

Though some campaign strategists and political experts feel that Dean, with a win in Iowa and/or New Hampshire, would be all but unstoppable, others disagree. Though some 20 contests, most in small states like Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina, will allocate a total of 888 delegates, it is the March 2 date that produces the big catch of delegates — a total of 1,151, or half the number needed to secure the nomination.

It is difficult to gauge where the Democratic candidates stand currently in California, but according to the most recent Field Poll, Dean and retired Army General **Wesley Clark** lead the still-crowded field among state Democrats, and both are likely to still be contenders by the time March 2 gets here.

Some Democratic strategists feel that Senator **John Kerry** (D-Massachusetts) and Gephardt will likely be among the four serious candidates still in the race when the California primary rolls around. If that is indeed the case, political endorsements from California Democratic leaders could play a very important role in who wins those March 2 delegates.

U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California), considered the most popular Democrat in the state, has endorsed Kerry, but Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D-California), who is up for re-election this year herself, hasn't endorsed and isn't expected to do so.

Kerry has also been endorsed by other top state Democrats like Controller **Steve Westly**, Treasurer **Phil Angelides**, L.A. Representative **Juanita Millender-McDonald**, and San Francisco Assemblyman **Mark Leno**.

Among prominent California Democrats endorsing the Dean candidacy are Insurance Commissioner **John Garamendi**, and sev-



Democratic presidential hopeful Richard Gephardt, center, visited the LGBT Community Center in San Francisco last summer with his lesbian daughter, Chrissy, left, and PFLAG's Sam Thoron.

eral House members, including Representatives **Zoe Lofgren** (D-San Jose) and **Pete Stark** (D-Fremont).

House Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi** (San Francisco) and Representative **Bob Matsui** (D-Sacramento) are backing House colleague Gephardt; Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante** (D) and East Bay Representative **Ellen Tauscher** (D) support Senator **Joseph Lieberman** (D-Connecticut), while Clark has the backing of Representative **Mike Thompson** (D-St. Helena) and former Commerce Secretary **Mickey Kantor**, still a powerhouse in state Democratic politics.

Outgoing state Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) has endorsed Senator **John Edwards** (D-North Carolina), and long shot candidate Representative **Dennis Kucinich** (D-Ohio) has picked up the backing of Oakland Representative **Barbara Lee** (D), an impressive list of Hollywood types, and several Green Party members.

**Terry McAuliffe**, Democratic National Committee chairman, said last week that March 2, with primaries in both California and New York, as well as a few other states will "be a huge day" for the party, adding that "whoever walks away with most of the delegates on that day, that could be it."

The question, of course, is which of those among the current candidates in the crowded field will be still standing come March 2. Very likely it will be Dean, then look for Gephardt, Kerry, and possibly Clark. Will Dean win it all or could Democratic Party leaders, concerned that Dean's strong opposition to the war in Iraq could make it difficult for him to defeat President Bush, rally around a so-called anti-Dean Democrat, with California and those other March 2 states providing the decisive showdown?

## Politics and people

Congratulations and all the best to incoming Mayor **Gavin Newsom** and District Attorney **Kamala Harris** both of whom take office today (Thursday, January 8); two bright, young, talent-

ed people who should do just fine. A belated Happy New Year and congrats to one of my favorites, Assemblyman Mark Leno, who managed to be named by *Genre*, the popular national gay men's magazine, to its year-end list of 10 of "The Men We Love."

Oakland Mayor (and former California governor) **Jerry Brown** says that he's "most serious" about running for California attorney general in 2006; Brown's celebrity alone will make him an early favorite, but he's being challenged for sure by state Senator **Joe Dunn** (D-Santa Ana) and more and more people are saying that S.F. City Attorney **Dennis Herrera** would also make a good AG.

And at the Hall of Justice, those who know him tell me that new District Attorney Kamala Harris made a great choice when she tapped former Alameda County Assistant D.A. **Russ Giuntini** as her new chief assistant district attorney, a position that outgoing D.A. **Terence Hallinan** was forced to change.

And assuming that City Attorney Dennis Herrera rules soon that District 9 Supervisor **Tom Ammiano** can run for yet another four-year term, all other candidates should step aside — Ammiano not only deserves another term, he belongs back in the president's spot.

Looking back to the December 9 mayoral runoff, one has to hand it to **David Binder** of David Binder Research for his mark and usually reliable political polling, while some others are still smirking at those KPIX-TV poll numbers by Survey USA (and displayed so prominently by the *Chronicle*) that consistently had **Matt Gonzalez** well ahead. I've gotta believe that even someone as astute as Channel 5's **Hank Plante** had to have trouble reporting them or taking them seriously. Survey USA, incidentally, used what's known as "computerized response audience polling" (or as some in the profession refer to as "CRAP," which is what the numbers turned out to be).

A lot of other winners in the December runoff that likely will go unnoticed too — people like **Jim Rivaldo** who worked on the Harris campaign; Rivaldo's had a string of winners (**Sophie Maxwell**, Dennis Herrera, **Bevan Duffy**, Mark Leno). He's a guy I'd

next page ►

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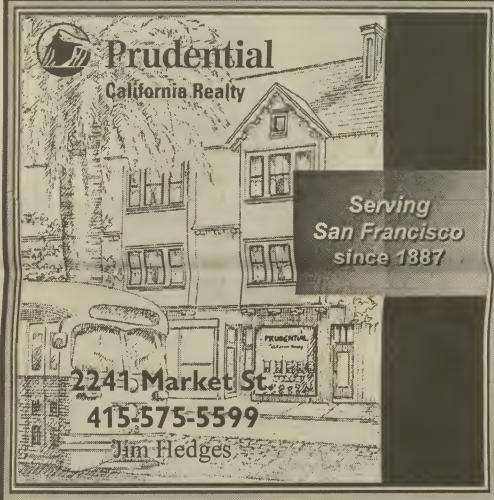
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# Where power and responsibility lie

by Dale Carpenter

A popular if depressing trend in American political debate involves accusing one's opponents of lying. Witness the plethora of recent low-brow books using some version of the word "lie" in their titles to attack opponents. These demagogic works eschew real argument for name-calling, but they sell well because the partisans who buy them prefer validation over serious thought. Now comes Chris Crain, executive editor of an empire of gay newspapers, including the *Washington Blade*, peddling a similar style of obtuseness to gay readers. We should not accept Crain's dumbing-down of gay politics.

Crain, whose hectoring editorials have become routine, sinks to a new low in a recent one entitled, "Lying our way to equal rights." In it, Crain accuses me and two other gay-equality advocates of lying about our real agenda in order to pacify antigay opposition. Among Crain's "liars" is Ruth Harlow, a lawyer who led the recent sodomy case victory in the Supreme Court. Harlow has done more for gay rights than just about any living American, so it's an honor to be on Crain's enemies list with her.

Let's analyze my alleged lie for gay equality. Last September I testified before a Senate subcommittee looking at the constitutional fate of the Defense of Marriage Act, which permits the states to refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

Antigay marriage activists argue that liberal federal judges are likely soon to strike down DOMA, making an immediate constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage the only way to stop it.

In a hearing lasting about three hours, and in many pages of single-spaced written testimony, supplemented later by responses to senators' written questions, I argued a marriage amendment is superfluous because the social-conservative nightmare of court-imposed nationwide gay marriage is unlikely to come true anytime soon. Specifically, I noted that the Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause (FFCC), as traditionally interpreted, allows states to refuse to recognize a marriage performed in another state if recognizing the marriage would violate its public policy. Further, I predicted the Supreme Court is unlikely under any constitutional doctrine to order nationwide gay marriage, at least for the foreseeable future. These views are shared by a large number of respected constitutional scholars, conservative and liberal.

Yet, without any support, Crain baldly asserts the FFCC requires states to recognize gay unions from other states. This has never been the law, a fact Crain seems oblivious to.

Moreover, he claims that my testimony contradicted "what many gay activists have said for a long time" about the FFCC. But even if that's true I am not bound by my views of constitutional law by what others have said. Besides, if Crain had actually read my testimony, he would know I never

opined that DOMA is constitutional; I argued only that, for the foreseeable future, federal courts are unlikely to strike it down. Crain's editorial simply demonstrates no understanding of the complex constitutional and policy questions involved.

Lacking substantive support for his views, Crain starts name-calling. He concludes I must be lying about the FFCC, "intending to calm the opposition so that they might not marshal their forces too soon, when we're not yet prepared."

What is his evidence for this serious charge of bad faith? Past statements by me contradicting myself? Crain presents none.

It's just his hunch, I suppose. Perhaps other gay activists disingenuously welcomed my testimony as a way to pacify the religious right. But in that case Crain's beef is with them, not me.

Adding indecision to his epithets, Crain concedes that I might not be lying since I might actually believe states ought to be able to make their own decisions about whether to recognize gay marriages. "As a gay Republican," Crain writes, "[Carpenter] is used to living with self-contradictions." In intelligent gay circles we have gotten beyond the hoary and facile dismissal of all gay Republicans as oxymorons. Not so on Crain's editorial page, which rarely runs opinion columns by gay conservatives.

Finally, Crain asks whether I would say that states should be free to ban interracial marriages, just as they ban gay marriages. I would not, but this involves no

"self-contradiction." As any first-year law student knows, but as Crain apparently does not, the relevant constitutional doctrines address racial and sexual orientation discrimination very differently.

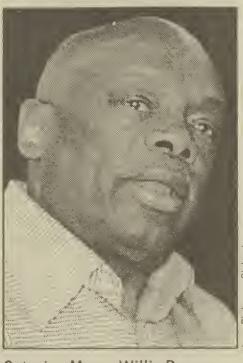
Additionally, the historical context of the Supreme Court's decision in *Loving v. Virginia*, striking down antimiscegenation laws, differed dramatically from the political context of gay marriage today. The *Loving* decision followed decades of political activism and debate about such laws, with the result that they remained in only 16 states by the time the Supreme Court stepped in to impose a national settlement.

We are nowhere near such a national consensus against antigay marriage laws. Out of respect for the democratic process and for good institutional reasons, the court appropriately hesitates before taking on the whole country on a charged social issue. Again, Crain shows no understanding of these complexities.

Editorial power in a free society is often dispensed on the basis of money or who-you-know happenstance, not merit. I do not know why Crain is where he is. And I will not speculate about his possible hidden motives, as he does others'. But I do know the public good demands that editorial power be used responsibly. Crain should start exercising some responsibility along with his power. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com). Some of his past columns can be read at [www.indegayforum.com](http://www.indegayforum.com).

sentences for the murders of two FBI agents in 1975. America, what a country.

A black and white portrait of Dale Carpenter, a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark and indistinct.

Outgoing Mayor Willie Brown

And finally, Mayor **Willie L. Brown Jr.**, first elected to the California Assembly in 1964, leaves City Hall today after having served two terms as mayor of this incredible city. Brown is certainly California's most charismatic (move over, Arnold) politician, a bold outspoken master of rhetoric, and one of the most prominent African American leaders in the nation. This column has written about Brown for the past 25 years in one fashion or another, and we will surely miss him. Like the guy or detest him, Brown is truly one of a kind. New Mayor Gavin Newsom on his predecessor: "It is very difficult for whomever is in this office to contrast with Mayor Brown; he's larger than life and even his worst critics will always acknowledge his presence."

And how was your week? ▼

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# 'Red' alert

by Jane Warner

**5** 00 block of Eureka, January 4, 1:35 a.m.: A woman who was walking westbound on 23rd Street noticed a dark colored vehicle driving slowly behind her. When she turned onto the 500 block of Eureka, two men jumped out of the vehicle, ran after her, and grabbed her by each arm. The men were yelling at her in a foreign language, possibly Russian, as they dragged her toward their car. Fearing for her life, the woman screamed and fought back. Startled, the men released her from their grasp and got back in the vehicle, fleeing northbound on Eureka toward Market Street. The woman reached her residence and called 911. Responding police were unable to locate the suspects, described as two white men between 20 and 30 years old. The vehicle driven was a dark colored SUV or pickup truck.

## 'Roid rage?

24 Hour Fitness, 2145 Market Street, December 24, 1:15 p.m.: A parking lot attendant was trying to help a man into a parking space when suddenly the driver yelled profanities at him and sped out of the garage at a high rate of speed. A few minutes later the driver walked into the garage and angrily told the attendant, "I'm going to kick your ass." The driver punched the attendant in the face several times with a closed fist, knocking him to the ground. A witness stopped to help as the suspect took the elevator to the second floor to 24 Hour Fitness. The attendant called 911 and when officers arrived, he declined medical attention for the injuries on his face, but told officers he thought the suspect was still on the second floor. The officers and the atten-

dant went up to 24 Hour Fitness where they found the suspect on the treadmill. Claiming his innocence, the suspect said, "I never hit him. We only exchanged words after he kicked my car eight or nine times." The officers offered to inspect his car for damage but the man declined, stating he would take care of it at a later time. Officers cited the 58-year-old suspect for battery and released him at the scene with a court date to appear.

## Word wizard

Crossroads Trading Company, 2123 Market Street, December 23, 10 a.m.: When the manager closed the store for the evening she locked and secured the back door. When she arrived at work the next morning, however, she discovered the back door wide open. Upon searching the premises, the manager found a wooden drum and a pair of drum sticks on the floor near the dressing room. On the floor nearby were two hand-written notes. One note read, "No keys. I god, in the name of the father, son command you to open the door." The other note read, "I god, command this door to open." The manager also discovered a green and silver bicycle missing from the back room. Responding officers inspected the open door and found no forced entry, and surmised that somebody must have gained entry using a key. There is no known suspect.

## Bar czar

Outside Detour, 2348 Market Street, December 21, 7:15 p.m.: A man walked into the Detour bar looking for his friend. When he couldn't find him, he left. As he

exited out the black curtain, he was followed by another man who angrily asked, "What's wrong with this bar? Don't you like it?"

The man responded, "Nothing's wrong with this bar. It's my favorite bar," as he walked away. Not satisfied, the stranger continued to follow the man, insisting that he tell him why he didn't like the bar. At one point, the suspect rushed ahead of the man, put his hand on his chest, and demanded to know a reason. The victim tried to walk away, but the suspect followed him to the corner of Castro and Market. As they stood in front of Pottery Barn waiting for the light to change, the suspect again put his hands on the victim's chest, telling him, "Arrogant guys like you need to get their asses beat."

The suspect then took a swing at the victim, striking him with a closed fist above his left eye. The victim stumbled backward but was able to get around his assailant and call 911 on his cell phone. The suspect followed him across the street to Chevron, where he called 911 himself, claiming that the victim had assaulted him. Responding officers found both men at the gas station. After an investigation, officers arrested the 38-year-old suspect for battery and found he was also wanted for an outstanding \$100,000 warrant for prior assault charges. ▼



## Student lawsuit

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Fuentes, 24, who in seventh grade was brutally beaten at his bus stop for being a "faggot"; the bus driver allegedly ignored the scene, allowed the attackers to board, and left Fuentes – who had to be treated at the hospital – on the ground.

In his high school years, Fuentes recalled one instance where he told classmates to stop calling him "faggot" and "queer," and he was taken out into the hallway by his teacher, shoved against a wall, and told that he had disrupted class.

Fuentes – who made his identity public for the first time on Tuesday – said he never knew that he had the right to a harassment-free education, and he thanked Flores for bringing him on board.

For Flores, the issue was clear from the beginning, and she wondered why it took her former school district several years to realize what she saw as an injustice from the start. When she began speaking out against the slurs, mock-rapes, and beatings she witnessed against other students, she said, she was alarmed that as perpetrators continued to suffer no consequences, their hatred and violence escalated.

And when Flores herself was the victim of harassment – receiving death threats and pornographic pictures in her locker even before she had come out of the closet – school officials wondered, "If you're not a dyke, why are you crying? If you're not gay, why does



Alana Flores, left, and Freddie Fuentes are all smiles following the news conference.

it matter?"

The constant threat to the students' physical safety made receiving an education nearly impossible. Flores was not able to complete her dreams of attending college for fear of reliving the abusive experience, she said, and now must "pick up the shards and try to build a mosaic of learning."

Fuentes now lives in Morgan Hill but plans to finish college in New York. He is working at a cof-

fee shop and taking some time "to learn things about myself I didn't get a chance to learn when I was younger."

Both Flores and Fuentes said that their lives can move forward now that future generations of students will be safer at school.

## Significant settlement

The settlement is considered significant because of its large

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## Potty time

◀ page 1

gated space means facing public challenges, humiliation, threats, and even violence.

Bathroom access is the first and last issue to come up during political debates about transgenders, and it is often the deal breaker when it comes to enforcing human rights ordinances. Nobody wants an intruder in their restroom. The trouble is, many people are suspect no matter which restroom they choose.

Even in San Francisco – where someone's own perception of his or her gender identity is enough to grant legal access to the restroom of choice – legal complaints that involve bathroom use make up a good percentage of cases at the Transgender Law Center as well as San Francisco's Human Rights Commission.

Bathroom access is such a major factor in human rights discourse that it has spawned a small but fierce and vocal movement known as bathroom activism. In San Francisco, the primary group fighting under this banner is known as People in Search of Safe Restrooms, and tonight (Thursday, January 8) at 7:30 p.m. at LunaSea Theater, PISSR will celebrate its first year with its first public event.

Tonight's event features performances by local artists as well as a screening of the new movie, *Toilet Training*, an educational tool created by New York-based attorney Dean Spade, a transgender man who was arrested in Grand Central Station for using the men's room.

In addition to raising money for PISSR and Spade's Sylvia Rivera Law Project, the event will acknowledge recent achievements that PISSR members and other bathroom activists hail as progress. San Francisco's Human Rights Commission has just rewritten and released regulations around the city's gender nondiscrimination law to emphasize that bathroom access is based upon gender identity, and that "people have to be allowed access to the restroom that they feel is appropriate for them, regardless of how others see them," according to SFHRC discrimination investigator Marcus Arana.

The commission regulations also strongly encourage businesses with single-use restrooms to make those rooms gender neutral rather than sex-segregated, so that instead of having a men's toilet and a women's toilet, "you simply have two toilets, that anyone can use," according to Arana.

The new regulations, aided in part by PISSR and TLC, are also the result of a commission survey in 2001 that showed "gender neutral bathrooms would benefit a wide variety of people, not just those who are trans or genderqueer identified," said Arana, pointing out that "people who may have a very clear gender identity to themselves may not have a clear gender expression to others. You might have a perfectly female identified person challenged in a women's bathroom because she's not feminine enough and gets read as a boy."

The regulations, said Arana, "are really about getting people used to the idea that gender identity is a person's own sense of self and is not in the eye of the beholder."

That is why the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, responding to concerns by gender activists, is in the process of developing signs to advise sex-segregated restroom users "to respect diversity and safety," according to the center's executive director Thom Lynch, so that nobody has to face such challenges in the first place.



Rick Gerhardt

Members of PISSR with their newly silk-screened T-shirts. The bathroom activist group hosts its first benefit tonight.

The center is also considering adding a unisex multi-stalled bathroom, provided it can do so without violating building codes and spending a lot of money.

"I'm sure we're not moving as quickly as PISSR would like us to, but we certainly support the idea of safety," said Lynch, referring to gender variant people who often encounter threats in public restrooms.

The need for bathroom activism is clear, say members of PISSR, who represent a range of genders and sexual orientations and who have all, at some point, been harassed, challenged, or threatened within a restroom based upon their appearance.

Bathroom facilities are ground zero for the gender variant population, particularly those who are poor or at the mercy of a variety of public institutions such as shelters and schools. And as Spade points out, New York City's transgender nondiscrimination ordinance of 2002 has yet to be enforced due to bureaucratic disagreements about who can use which restroom.

"It's as if people are okay with transgender rights until they have to use a sex-segregated facility," said Spade, whose clients in New York include employees who cannot use their work facilities and students who cannot graduate because they cannot meet their gym requirement without accessing the proper locker room. "What we're trying to say is that you cannot have transgender rights without addressing the bathroom."

## Hot button

What is that makes people so afraid of finding the "wrong" sex inside their restroom? For most, agree gender activists, it is years of hard programming; many of the fears expressed are usually gut reactions, not the result of analysis.

"Safety" and "privacy" are the two words used most often by people with concerns or discomfort, said Arana, who added that "the reality is that anyone could get assaulted anywhere, and there are laws to prohibit inappropriate behavior by anyone in the bathrooms."

The vulnerability expressed about the bathroom space is what Spade notices the most.

"The perception that somebody will have different body parts in a sex-segregated space invokes a panic that translates as, 'These people are asking me to change how I see the world, and it hits me in an instance where I feel most vulnerable,'" said Arana.

Most bathroom fears center around the women's restroom, or the idea that men may enter a female-only space, although it is not unheard of for people to be "corrected" while inside men's spaces.

While the SFHRC and Spade's SRLP usually help people fight for their right to use segregated spaces according to their own gender, PISSR's work focuses on creating more gender-neutral spaces so that nobody has to face such challenges in the first place.

PISSR – in addition to conducting citywide "toilet tours" that

identify public places whose restrooms are unisex-friendly – also has released a fact sheet of rebuttals to such fears. The sheet was drafted by PISSR members Jody Marksamer and Dylan Wade as part of a project at the TLC.

On the fear of assault, for instance, the fact sheet states, "A sign on the door is an illusion of safety. A sign does not keep out attackers. Multiple person gender-neutral bathrooms could actually provide more safety if carefully constructed, since they would be a more public space and make it less likely that a woman would be alone."

Safety concerns expressed by those opposed to different genders in the bathroom also fail to recognize the safety issues that the differently-gendered encounter on a daily basis.

Spade finds that once people are given the chance to examine their fears about transgenders in the restroom, they recognize the need for reform on some level, and that "no one is safe as long as such challenges are considered okay."

And interestingly enough, some transgenders have expressed opposition to the idea of gender-neutral bathrooms, as their own hard-fought gender identities are often reinforced by the sign on the door.

"Some individuals who are transgender say they worked really hard to be the gender they feel they are, and depriving them of using a men's or women's room deprives them of that gender-specific experience," said Arana. "It's almost as if using the bathroom becomes a rite of passage. But I think we need to find better ways to have those rites of passage that aren't attached to the bathroom, and that other people don't have to suffer by. Let's face it, if you're 'passing,' nobody's hassling you, and passing is a privilege."

Spade concurs.

"What we need is to get out of a system where you need those 'male' and 'female' emblems in order to feel safe."

Tonight's PISSR event is open to the public; a sliding scale donation of \$5 and up is suggested. Performers include Jaycub Perez, Storm Florez, Brooklynne, the Dangers, and many others, and emcees are Fairy Butch and Johnnie Pratt. LunaSea Theater is located at 2940 16th Street, and doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Tonight's movie, *Toilet Training*, is a diverse look at a variety of people who are constantly challenged in sex-segregated spaces, and an examination of what that means in terms of physical and mental health and the criminal justice system. Service providers, activists, and those with discomfort issues are especially encouraged to attend.

For more information on bathroom activism or tonight's event, visit [www.pissr.org](http://www.pissr.org). Information about the Sylvia Rivera Law Project can be accessed online at [www.srlp.org](http://www.srlp.org).

If you or someone you know has been wrongly challenged in a sex-segregated space, contact the Human Rights Commission at (415) 252-2519. ▼

# Gay lobbying group seeks funds

by Matthew S. Bajko

**R**unning up deficits for the last several years has left one Sacramento-based gay lobbying group strapped for cash as a new legislative session gets under way.

The Lambda Letters Project, a volunteer-run group that spearheads letter writing campaigns urging state lawmakers to support gay-rights legislation, announced late last year it needed help raising funds to ensure it could continue its work.

"We need skilled fundraisers now. We need people who know how to raise money and who are willing to do it. Our continued existence depends on our finding them and soon," stated the e-mail.

While the group told its members that in 2003 "we delivered over one quarter million letters and e-mails to elected officials from people like you," it also said "we have not been living within our means."

According to the e-mail, the project spent roughly \$50,000 last year, but raised only about half that amount. To cover the difference, the group tapped into surpluses left over from prior years. However, the project warned "those surpluses are almost gone. We will not be able to depend on them in 2004."

In the e-mail, sent in December to its members, the project said its inability to attract qualified fundraisers had hampered the work it could do in the state capital.

"We have always failed to attract skilled fundraisers, people who know how to ask for funds and are not afraid to do so, people who know how to do successful fund raising events. As a result, we are always hamstrung by our budget restraints," read the e-mail.

Boyce Hinman, the project's founder and chief lobbyist, said in an interview this week that the project's appeal for funds recouped most of the money it spent last year but was still waiting for fundraisers to offer their services.

"We took in about \$45,000" Hinman told the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, January 5 by phone from Sacramento.

While the project had a reserve fund of \$30,000, Hinman said it had drawn down that account to about \$10,000.

"For several years we have really been drawing down our reserve," he said.

Although the project does not have any paid staff, it pays a contractor \$1,500 a month to handle the printing and mailing of a monthly newsletter to its nearly 1,000 members. Each mailing contains information about pending legislation the project asks members to support and includes sample letters they can send to their lawmakers. The project's other costs include postage, pride booth fees, printing fees, mailing supplies, board expenses, Internet costs, and government fees.

The project has a sliding scale for its membership fees, with the highest being \$35 a person, with \$20 for each additional household member, or \$20 for those with limited income. However, it is not strict with its dues policy and its e-mail list is free to join.

When it began 15 years ago, Hinman said roughly two-thirds of the members paid dues. In recent years that number has



Boyce Hinman of Lambda Letters

dropped to about 50 percent, he said.

"We have never wanted money to stand in the way of sending letters," he said.

But the project is now focusing on trying to improve its financial support from members in order to increase its political efforts.

"If we can generate one quarter million mail pieces on just \$50,000 a year, imagine what we could do with an annual budget of \$250,000," posited the project in its e-mail.

Currently, the project operates due to the help of 14 volunteers, nine unpaid board members, one volunteer newsletter editor, and four legislative analysts who prepare the sample letters that accompany the monthly newsletter.

"We are growing fast but the volunteer base to support the work we do is not keeping up with our needs," wrote board chair Lori Norman in a letter posted to the group's Web site. "We need a larger board of directors. It's a lot of work for only nine board members. If we had 15 to 20 board members, the work would be that much easier."

Since it began in 1988, the project has grown into a successful lobbying organization commended by state legislators and statewide groups. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the California chapter of the National Organization for Women, the Elections Committee of the County of Orange, and half a dozen legislators have praised the project for its work.

Boyce is very conscientious in making sure he knows what is going on. He has ensured our action alerts have been distributed over the years," said Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "It would be unfortunate if they went away."

## Bills get a boost

Last year the project worked in tandem with other statewide gay rights groups to pressure lawmakers into passing four pro-gay measures. One bill in particular, AB17, a statewide equal benefits ordinance, received a boost from the project's efforts.

Last fall the bill was languishing in the Senate Appropriations Committee and at one point looked as if it would not move on to the floor for a full vote, recalled Hinman. The project kept pressure on the committee members and the bill eventually went on to be signed by then-Governor Gray Davis.

"I frankly believe AB17 would have died without the efforts of Lambda Letters," said Hinman. "People were giving up but Lambda Letters kept pounding away at the chair of that commit-

tee and writing to members of the Senate saying you have got to move that bill. And finally, it did move."

Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), an out lesbian who was the chief sponsor of the bill, thanked the project for its efforts in a letter sent in December. She wrote, "Your hard work has generated thousands of letters of support, which helped in passing several key pieces of legislation."

Kehoe's chief of staff, Michael Miller, told the *B.A.R.* that the project's support "was very important" in keeping AB17 alive. With the project working in tandem with the other gay lobbying groups, Miller said "the whole combined effort is what helped free up that bill."

While groups like Equality California and the National Center for Lesbian Rights focus on meeting with lawmakers, Lambda Letters focuses more on the time-honored tradition of personally writing legislators. In this way, Hinman said the organizations work hand-in-hand in pushing for gay rights.

"I have long seen us as part of a team with EQCA. All those organizations are primarily involved in face-to-face lobbying with legislators and their staffs, with us backing them up with constituent mail," said Hinman. "I think there is money out there to support all the organizations."

Geoff Kors, EQCA's executive director, agreed that there is no turf war between the two groups.

He said each plays a role in ensuring legislators support gay-rights legislation.

"Ultimately, the more letters, phone calls, faxes, and e-mails legislators get from constituents in their districts the better. That is how we get 41 votes in the Assembly" to pass legislation, said Kors. "Really, the more people who work on these issues the better."

Kors noted that Hinman played a lead role in securing support for AB205, the sweeping domestic partners legislation, from religious leaders. He said the

community would be wise to support Hinman's group.

"There are too few people who work full-time doing LGBT civil rights work. We could use thousands of people, especially at this time in our movement," said Kors.

The project has asked anyone who wants to volunteer their fundraising skills to contact Norman at Lori.Norman@lambdaletters.org or call her at (818) 785-1563.

For more information on the project, visit its Web site at [www.lambdaletters.org](http://www.lambdaletters.org). ▼

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# Legal experts urge Mass. to grant gay marriage

by Bob Roehr

A handful of prominent Massachusetts legal figures have written to state legislators urging them to pass a law that will carry out the ruling of that state's Supreme Judicial Court allowing gays to marry. The letter greeted lawmakers at the start of the legislative session Monday, January 5.

"We see the SJC's ruling as unequivocal: The existing ban on marriage for gay people is unconstitutional. ... We urge each of you as members of a coordinated branch of government sworn to uphold the constitution, and the rule of law, to use the remainder of the time period in the court's

stay to take any and all steps possible to facilitate the orderly issuance of marriage licenses to qualified same-sex couples," the letter stated.

Laurence Tribe, the constitutional scholar at Harvard University, was the primary drafter of the letter. Signing it were William Weld, the former U.S. attorney and Republican governor of Massachusetts; former state Attorney General Scott Harshbarger and James M. Shannon; and Renee M. Landers, president of the Boston Bar Association.

All of the signers had previously made their positions public. It is unusual, however, for them to take such a public stance in lobbying the legislators.

Openly gay state Senator Jar-

rett T. Barrios has said that he intends to apply for a marriage license when they become available in the spring. He told the *Boston Globe* that the letter would have a positive effect, though no one is predicting the extent of that effect.

In a January 3 column in the *Globe*, Patrick Guerrero, a former mayor and Massachusetts state legislator and currently the executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, called the SJC's decision "a conservative ruling on gay marriage."

He pointed to the court's argument that "exclusive unions, recognized by a civil marriage license, will provide greater family stability and a more ordered society. Self-proclaimed pro-family groups should be embracing stable relationships, not encouraging transient ones."

Guerrero reminded readers that the Legislature "repeatedly failed" to act on lesser legislation, including domestic partnership and civil union legislation that he had introduced.

The American Family Association, based in Tupelo, Mississippi, has been running "America's Poll on Homosexual Marriage" on its Web site for the last few weeks. Only votes with a valid e-mail address will be counted. The survey says, "Results of this poll will be presented to Congress." But perhaps not, if current results hold up.

More than 800,000 people have voted and so far, the AFA's presumed favorite position — "I oppose legalization of homosexual marriage and 'civil unions'" — has garnered only about 32 percent of the vote. Nearly 60 percent of those voting "favor legalization of homosexual marriage." The

vote in favor of "civil union with the full benefits of marriage except for the name" is coming in at about 8 percent.

Several listservs and Web sites have been promoting the poll, including the libertarian site at *Reason* magazine. Under a thread called "Torture AFA" there has been speculation that the principle purpose of the poll is to gather e-mail addresses to solicit new members for AFA. One poster anticipates receiving one beginning

## CELEBRATIONS

### Stewart K. McKenzie and J. Layne Ringgenberg

Stewart McKenzie and Layne Ringgenberg were declared partners in life October 18, 2003 at the Canterbury Hotel, in downtown San Francisco. About 135 guests were on hand to share in the celebration, which included dinner and dancing.

Mr. McKenzie, 35, was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and is the son of Dr. Keith and Della McKenzie of Santa Cruz. He earned a bachelor of science degree in journalism from California State Polytechnic University-San Luis Obispo. Currently he is an entrepreneur and senior partner of Remain.com Technical Support of San Francisco.



Mr. Ringgenberg, 43, was born in Newton, Iowa, and is the son of Norman and Cecilia Ringgenberg of Baxter, Iowa. He attended the University of Iowa where he studied broadcast marketing and was a popular radio DJ. He has managed various small businesses and is currently honing his skills as a master lamp-maker.

Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Ringgenberg met in San Francisco on Easter Sunday, 1998. After a yearlong courtship they moved together and continue to share a house in the Glen Park neighborhood of San Francisco. They spent their honeymoon at Playa Las Estacas, south of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The men discussed their desires to have a wedding for a couple of years to celebrate their love and the support of their family and friends. They decided that a commitment ceremony was not only what they wanted to do but felt that they needed to do to show other gay couples that this is not only their right but that it is something that is in many ways essential to any committed relationship regardless of gender identification. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Ringgenberg hope that they will inspire others to make similar decisions for themselves. ▶

vote in favor of "civil union with the full benefits of marriage except for the name" is coming in at about 8 percent.

"Attention faggot lovers..."

Meanwhile in Sweden, the official national church, the (Lutheran) Church of Sweden, is preparing a ceremony for same-sex couples. That has prompted international grumbling from nine Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Pentecostal church leaders who have written, "This action will inevitably affect ecumenical talks and relations in a negative direction." The letter has not affected plans by the Church of Sweden. ▶

## AIDS budget

◀ page 1

pose any cuts to care or prevention services it is difficult to know. But I think there is a distinct possibility that he will cut very deeply into HIV programs," said Van Gorder.

Aides to the governor indicated earlier this week that the state's Medi-Cal program will also be a victim of the state's financial problems. Schwarzenegger had already proposed a 10 percent reduction in Medi-Cal reimbursement last year when he announced \$1.8 billion in midyear cuts to the 2003-04 budget.

The reduction to doctors and hospitals came on top of a 5 percent reduction already approved last year. Though a court recently ruled the cut was illegal, the funding for Medi-Cal remains unresolved, Van Gorder said.

"All of that is very much up in the air," said Van Gorder. "Our concern about that is that as you further squeeze medical providers, particularly private ones, it makes it impossible for them to provide services to low-income patients, including people with AIDS."

Unlike last year, when AIDS groups brokered a deal with the Davis administration that kept the state from instituting a copayment plan for ADAP, the outlook looks grim for another compromise. While a copayment plan has yet to be floated this year, it could once again be put on the table.

again be put on the table.

"I worry that we have done relatively well at protecting the HIV/AIDS budget in the last couple of years — and people continue to be optimistic we can save these services — but this is the year when all of the politics around that, as well as just the urgency of the budget situation, may make it extremely difficult for us to protect ADAP and other vital services," said Van Gorder. "We won't be able to do it without a huge community outcry."

### Other issues

Apart from health services funding, gay rights groups said they will be monitoring the budget for the state's Department of Fair Housing and Employment. With the passage of a transgender rights bill last year that makes it illegal to discriminate against a person based on gender, activists expect there will be a number of enforcement issues stemming from the new law.

Investigators with the fair housing and employment office will be responsible for handling those cases, and if the office's funding is cut it could hamper that work.

"It is important once real good regulations are put into place that the community is advised about their rights and business owners and landlords know about these rights," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California. "Without that, having the rights can ring some-

what hollow."

Both EQCA and the state Log Cabin Club, a gay Republican group, expect the new governor to appoint out gays and lesbians to his administration. But to date no announcements have been made, and Kors said they are still waiting to hear what roles any appointees will play.

Members of the LGBT Caucus, comprised of the five out gay and lesbian lawmakers in the Legislature, are also waiting to see if the governor will meet with them. The caucus is expected to announce its legislative agenda later this month, and it remains to be seen if Schwarzenegger will support any of the bills.

As conservative lawmakers push forward with a legal challenge to AB205, the sweeping domestic partners legislation signed by former Governor Gray Davis last fall, Schwarzenegger has remained silent on the issue. The judge in the case has yet to schedule the next court date. The new law is scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2005.

State rules over adoption by gay couples are also being closely watched by gay rights groups. The antigay group Campaign for California Families has been pushing its members to ask the new administration to reverse an executive order signed by Davis that instructed the state's adoption agency to not discriminate against gay and lesbian couples.

It does not appear page 18 ▶

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## OBITUARIES

## Scott Wesley Conover



Died at home on December 9, 2003. He was born May 12, 1950, in Oakland, California. Scotty graduated from The Piedmont School System and continued his education at Cal State Hayward majoring in education. He worked for the city of San Francisco assisting senior citizens in the Tenderloin District and received a commendation from the state of California for his outstanding work. But the artist that dwelt within led him to Vidal Sassoon where he became a styling instructor and eventually owned and operated his own successful salon.

Scotty's talents did not end there. He touched people's hearts with his love and the humor he carried with him always. He will be greatly missed by his long-time partner, John Kopchak, his mother, Bobbie Bevis, his sister, Chris

Watson, his brother-in-law, Brad Kinkle, his niece, Bree Watson, and his loving cat Coco, as well as his other family and his many close and wonderful friends who are too numerous to mention by name. He loved them all. He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond and his brother, Paul.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, January 11, 2004, at 2 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, California.

Donations in Scotty's memory can be made to Project Open Hand, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109 or The Alameda Community Food Bank, P.O. Box 24590, Oakland, CA.

## James Harris

September 1, 1934 — December 26, 2003

James Harris, a 40-year resident of San Francisco, died on December 26, 2003. He was born September 1, 1934. He will be missed by all of his friends and employers at Ceilings System, S.E., and mourned by brother Tom Harris,



sisters Caroline and Helen (Texas), sister Evelyn (Alabama), local friends Clint, Allen, Von, Michael, Bob, Art, Walter and many other friends.

His cremation was on January 5, 2004. Friends will be invited to disposal of remains at a later date aboard a private yacht.

Rest in peace, good friend.

## Jeffrey Allen McCluney

Passed away on December 20, 2003 after a long illness from an unknown abdominal ailment. He was 31 years old. Jeff was born and raised in Hayward and graduated from James Logan High School in 1991. Jeff had recently been living in San Francisco and was in his second year of attending San Francisco City College studying journalism and broadcasting when he became ill. He was very proud to have completed a

drug recovery program at the Henry Ohlhoff House on Steiner Street in San Francisco and diligently pursued a drug-free lifestyle the last four years. While completing the resident program at Ohlhoff, he became a friend and mentor and helped many others on their road to recovery.

Jeffrey is survived by his mother and father, Rosalind and Roger McCluney, and his sister, Suzanne McCluney, all of Hayward; his aunt and uncle, Treccle and Randall McCluney, of Newark; his aunt and uncle, Beth and Ray Gedney, of Pleasanton; his aunt and uncle, Martha and Richard Gedney, of Thousand Oaks, California; and his grandfather, Raymond Gedney, of Newbury Park, California.

Family and Friends are invited to attend a 7:00 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at Eden United Church Congregational at the corner of Birch Street and Grove Way in Hayward, California.

The family requests that donations be made in Jeffrey's name to The Ohlhoff Recovery Programs, 601 Steiner St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

## William L. Thomas

1947 — 2003



Bill Thomas, 56, passed away on Dec. 11 at the VA Hospital after a long HIV-related illness. He was Vice President of San Franciscans Leather/Levi Club over the last eight years. A native Californian born in Colusa, Bill was educated in Sacramento prior to his enlistment in the U.S. Army. A Korean War veteran, Military Police Dog Trainer in Oceanside, Korea, upon discharge he settled in Chicago. He held many interesting work related positions, including as sales manager, advertising manager, and master carpenter. He worked in the public relations department of Schwinn Bicycle

for eight years, settling in Pacifica in 1995.

Bill was quite a talker and loved everything to do with the Theater. He was very creative with writing, making sets, performing and directing.

In 1971 Bill was one of the 14 original Lincoln Park lagooners who produced many charitable events over the years in Chicago. Music was his life, giving him total fulfillment, making tapes and playing that good Disco always brightened his day and everyone's around him. He had a cleaning business that he started in Chicago and brought to Pacifica.

He leaves behind his family in Sacramento, his mother Virginia, Aunt Irene, cousin Carol, Jerry and Stephen, and his best friend and roommate, Bob Tait of Pacifica.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on January 17th at Trinity Episcopal Church at Gough and Bush streets in San Francisco. Bill will be buried when the water table drops in the family plot in Maxwell, California.

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Family law attorney Marian Chapman dies

## by Cynthia Laird

Marian Chapman, a pioneering family law attorney who handled the first lesbian stepparent adoption in California, died suddenly on Friday, January 2 in her Berkeley home after suffering a heart attack. She was 58.

Ms. Chapman was an early supporter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and helped expand what was then called the Lesbian Rights Project into one of the leading public law agencies dealing with LGBT legal issues.

"It's a tremendous loss to the community, and especially the gay and lesbian legal community," San Francisco Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "She was a real leader for NCLR and issues of gay and lesbian family rights."

"Marian was very supportive and served as chair of the board in the early 1980s. She was active in

helping establish that organization and expanding it," Hitchens added.

Hitchens, who said she last saw Ms. Chapman about six months ago, said her death was "totally unexpected."

"It's a stunning event," Hitchens said.

Kate Kendell, executive director of NCLR, told the *B.A.R.* that Ms. Chapman "was always a resource to me."

"She certainly was one of the early critical movers behind the launch of what was then the Lesbian Rights Project," said Kendell.

Mary Anne Courtney, NCLR board co-chair, called Ms. Chapman a "wonderful supporter of the organization and a warm, embracing person."

Ms. Chapman opened a private law practice in Oakland after graduating with honors from Santa Clara Law School, according to an obituary in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She was featured in "The Best Lawyers in America"

numerous times.

Ms. Chapman also co-founded Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, an LGBT legal organization.

Ms. Chapman is survived by her partner of 25 years, Sandra Springs, who is also an attorney in Oakland. Other survivors include her father, Daniel Chapman of Los Angeles; a sister, Willa Chapman of Half Moon Bay; and a brother, Robert Chapman of Los Angeles.

Viewings are scheduled for today (Thursday, January 8) and Friday from 5-9 p.m. at Chapel of the Chimes mortuary in Oakland. A celebration of her life will be held Sunday, January 11 at 2 p.m. at the Pacific Film Archive Theater in Berkeley.

Donations may be made to NCLR, 870 Market Street, Suite 570, San Francisco, CA 94102 or the Alameda Superior Court Children's Waiting Room, c/o Judge Barbara Miller, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612. ▼

## Memorial for B.A.R.'s Bob Ross Sunday

## by Cynthia Laird

A memorial service for Bob Ross, publisher of the *Bay Area Reporter*, will be held this Sunday, January 11, in San Francisco.

Mr. Ross died December 10 of complications from diabetes. He was 69.

Mr. Ross started the *B.A.R.* in April 1971 and built it into a powerhouse for the gay and lesbian community. The paper was used as

a source of information by gays in the early days of the AIDS epidemic, before mainstream newspapers began reporting on the disease.

A pioneer of the early gay rights movement in San Francisco, Mr. Ross was often on the front lines during protests for gay rights at a time when it was not safe to be out as gay or lesbian.

In addition to his duties as publisher, Mr. Ross was involved in numerous civic and charitable organizations over the years. He served on the San Francisco Ballet

Board of Trustees and on the board of Meals on Wheels. Additionally, Mr. Ross served as a board member of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District for 18 years.

Mr. Ross was an early supporter of the AIDS Emergency Fund and helped found the Tavern Guild. A former Emperor of San Francisco, Mr. Ross was also involved in the Imperial Court system.

Sunday's memorial will be held in the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, starting at 5 p.m. ▼

## Student lawsuit

◀ page 11

monetary award — \$560,000 of which will be distributed among the plaintiffs in the form of damages — but mostly because of its comprehensive training program and specific antigay harassment policies.

School trainings at Morgan Hill, according to Keker & Van Nest's Wexler, will begin this year for employees and students. Students will receive age-appropriate trainings in seventh grade and peer-to-peer trainings in ninth grade. Employees will be trained on the new policies, which prohibit the district from ignoring complaints of antigay harassment or coercing students, as was alleged in the lawsuit, into transferring schools or embarking on independent study in order to re-

main safe.

"Most teachers want to do right by their students," said ACLU attorney Ann Brick, "but they need the backing of the administration and they need the tools. This settlement provides both."

Since the alleged Morgan Hill incidents, California's education code has been changed to require that all schools statewide address anti-LGBT harassment and discrimination, but this settlement provides a working document, said Brick, for school district-specific policies. The policy is available online, said Brick, for other districts to "read, copy, and improve upon."

The *Flores* case also won some encouraging victories that are more widespread, including a precedent-setting decision by the U.S. District Court for the Ninth Circuit in April 2003 which ruled that despite defense claims, the

law at the time of the harassment was clear: schools that do not protect their students from antigay abuse violate the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

That unanimous ruling is binding for the nine western states covered by the district court, and it will also serve courts nationwide that are dealing with similar issues. A handful of cases exist nationwide against school districts who failed to protect their students from anti-gay harassment, according to NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell.

A statement released by the Morgan Hill Unified School District on Tuesday said, "Although the district believes it has no liability in the matter, it has agreed to this settlement agreement to avoid the costs and uncertainties of trial in order that the district can remain focused on its primary goal of educating students." ▼

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# Chicago

by Jim Provenzano

With two U.S. cities now announcing their returning bids to host Gay Games VII, it's become apparent that not only will the official Gay Games survive, but the next one will take place in the United States.

While Los Angeles was one of the two to bid, that city's organizers are also setting their sights on a 2010 bid to host the quadrennial event. Atlanta, which had bid on Gay Games VII, dropped out after disagreements over that committee's belief that it should have been given priority, since they were runner up to Montreal.

Atlanta placed second in the original bidding, with 11 votes to Montreal's 31. Chicago received seven votes, while Los Angeles received only one, according to the Federation of Gay Games.

"All of our sports teams are very concerned about the reality of having to put this on in less than two years," said Shamy Cramer, who serves on the Los Angeles bid team, and is a previous Games medalist with West Hollywood's water polo team. "The tough questions are being asked, and the discussions that those questions have yielded have been incredibly positive."

My prediction: organizers of Chicago Games Inc. ([www.chicagogamesinc.org](http://www.chicagogamesinc.org)) stand to be the front runners in the race. After

having hosted the Federation of Gay Games annual meeting that some hoped would have led to Montreal finally signing contracts to host the seventh Games, Chicago's commuter-friendly urban environment will work better than L.A.'s highway sprawl.

## All that jazz

After discord that has been extensively covered here (see [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org) for previous articles), and in other media, Montreal's less than accurate depiction of the negotiations left them withdrawing from negotiations, leaving Chicago as the stalwart contender to pick up the slack.

With U.S. immigration policies having entered a new phase of homeland security excess, demanding fingerprinting of every visiting foreigner, will

non-U.S. GLBT athletes steer clear of the U.S., and attend Montreal's Rendezvous 2006, scheduled to coincide with the Quebec city's Divers/Cité Pride celebrations?

Will the official Gay Games precede Montreal's combined Pride and sports events, scheduled for the first week of August 2006?

"We have not yet made a final determination of the date during which our proposed Gay Games would take place," said Kevin Boyer of Chicago Games Inc. "We do not plan to select the same dates as Rendezvous 2006 in Montreal, however."

A quadrennial athletic and cultural event that brings together people from around the world, the Gay Games was founded in 1982 on the principles of participation, inclusion, and personal best. San Francisco Olympian Tom Waddell developed the idea, which, some critics within and outside the federation believe has become diluted. Bringing it back to North America — with a sports focus — has long been the hope of many Games veterans.

Worries about a separatist attitude between athletes who go to Chicago or L.A., and Montreal



"When You're Good to Mamma": Gay Games ballroom dancers.

also expressed support for the official Gay Games VII, as have board members of the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics. The global swim group schedules its large-scale aquatics event to coincide every four years with the Games.

Chicago's umbrella sports organizations have indicated strong support for the Chicago bid. The Women's Sports Association, Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association, Team Chicago, and the Windy City Athletic Association are each already contributing volunteers and expertise to the bid effort and letters of support.

"Chicago MSA stands proudly with you," writes Mel Ferrand, President of Chicago MSA. The Women's Sports Association's board of directors wrote of "wholehearted support and admiration." Team Chicago also said it will be "enthusiastic supporters of this effort."

Team New York, one of the world's largest delegations to past Gay Games, also wrote to Chicago to indicate its support for the Gay Games, noting it will work to expand its participation if Chicago is awarded the 2006 Gay Games.

"Chicago Games Inc., its sponsors and supporters, the city of Chicago, and anyone else involved in the upcoming bid preparation process should know that Team New York is fully committed to the Gay Games movement," the organization said in a statement.

## Razzle dazzle

While such statements aren't exactly declaring a snub to Montreal, it's apparent that the lines are being drawn. Montreal may be left with a loose array of athletes attending what is still a proven formula of excess: unsupervised budgets, unrelated festivities overshadowing athletic achievement, and no proof of sports events being officially sanctioned.

Still, some have expressed interest in attending both events, if it's financially possible. But for serious jocks looking to continue their personal bests and medal winning, nothing will beat the real thing.

And if Montreal's left hanging, all I can say is, you had it coming. ▼

For more information about the FGG, visit [www.gaygames.org](http://www.gaygames.org) and [www.chicagogamesinc.org](http://www.chicagogamesinc.org).



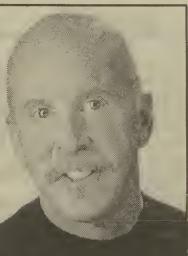
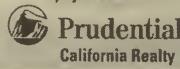
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## Israel

◀ page 3

human rights workers."

Tuesday's demonstration also demanded an end to the "Apartheid Wall"; Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories; and the recognition of the right of return for all Palestinians. These demands were swiftly countered with literature from pro-Israeli activists.

"How come, when civilians are accidentally killed in one of our

military operations, everyone clamors right away for an investigation, while their suicide bombers have no qualms about boarding a bus packed with children or entering a crowded restaurant and blowing themselves up, fully aware of who they are taking with them?" said one such handout.

But government sanctioned violence such as military action does not negate or legitimize Israeli violence, say Palestinian activists. One of the things Raphael

did in the West Bank was to conduct tours of villages so that Israelis could see first hand the conditions that Palestinians must endure under Israeli occupation.

The Israeli Consulate in San Francisco did not comment on Raphael's detention.

More information on Raphael's fight, including photographs of the demonstration and her arrest, can be found on the Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism Web site at <http://www.quitpalestine.org>. ▼

## AIDS budget

◀ page 16

Schwarzenegger will rescind the ruling, and gay activists believe that CCF is only using the issue to raise funds.

"Based on language in the *Sharon S.* case it is difficult to see any real concern in that area," said Kors, citing a case where a lesbian

couple fought over custody of a child and raised questions about the legality of second-parent adoptions. "But without actual legislation that gives full equality — and things are done through regulations and court decisions short of state or federal courts — there is no assurance."

Other areas of concern for groups like EQCA are appointments to state commissions and

the judiciary. Davis helped the LGBT community break many barriers in those areas, and Kors said his organization will continue to lobby for more queer appointments.

"It is really important appointments continue under Governor Schwarzenegger and that we do have our community represented equally as other communities," he said. ▼

## CLASSIFIEDS

# FDA approves sale of 10-min. HIV test

by Matthew S. Bajko

With the approval last month of a 10-minute HIV test by the U.S. government, health officials now have an even faster option than other rapid HIV tests currently on the market, which take double the time to produce a result.

Trinity Biotech PLC, the Dublin, Ireland-based company marketing the new fast test, reportedly is selling it as a quick method to test hospital workers who accidentally prick their fingers with bloody needles. If a healthcare worker is exposed to the blood of a patient who is HIV-positive and given a combination of anti-HIV drugs within a few hours of exposure, their chances of being infected can be reduced.

"There are over 800,000 needlestick injuries per year in U.S. hospitals. They need to know urgently if that patient was infected with HIV," Brendan Farrell, president of the company, told the Associated Press last month.

The company also has said the new test could be used to test pregnant women deemed at high risk for infecting their newborns with HIV.

The Food and Drug Administration signed off on the new test, called the Uni-Gold Recombigen HIV test, on Tuesday, December 30. The company plans to sell 400,000 to 500,000 tests in the United States this year, at a cost of \$10 each. It is already sold in Africa and Asia.

The test requires one drop of whole blood, serum, or plasma. In trials using more than 9,000 patient samples, the Trinity test de-

tected 100 percent of the HIV positive specimens and was 99.7 percent accurate on the negative samples.

"It is every bit as accurate as lab-based tests," Farrell told the AP.

The Trinity test is expected to be a direct competitor to the OraQuick Rapid HIV-1 test made by OraSure Technologies. The OraSure test, approved by the FDA in November 2002, takes 20-minutes to produce a result and can only be used on whole blood.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has already bought 250,000 of OraSure's test and is distributing it to 50 locations across the country. San Francisco is the first city in the state to begin using the tests and is expanding the number of clinics which provide rapid testing this spring.

How soon, and if, the new Trinity test will appear in San Francisco hospitals and clinics remains unknown. Officials responsible for the city's HIV counseling and testing did not return calls by press time.

While AIDS advocates said they had heard rumour the new test would be approved, as of yet they said there has been little discussion about using it in the field. More focus right now is being placed on the OraSure test.

"The company is saying it is highly accurate and reliable but I have not really heard from people doing testing what their level of confidence in this test is," Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, said of the Trinity test. "I know there is a lot of confidence in OraSure."

# BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL SERVICES

### SAN FRANCISCO'S PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE

San Francisco's children are deeply affected by the plague of violence, which surrounds them in their homes, schools, and communities. We are only just beginning to understand how exposure to violence is harming our children and youth.

Research performed by the SafeStart Initiative estimates 10,000 children and youth are exposed to violence in their homes in San Francisco every year. This is compounded by the fact that every child in San Francisco is exposed to violence in the media, in the street, and at school.

#### Why Prevent and Reduce Childhood Exposure to Violence?

Children who witness violence at home have more anxiety, self-esteem, depression, anger, and temperament problems. One study found that increased exposure to violence is associated with lower cognitive functioning and thus children may not do as well in school and have delayed development. Children exposed to violence also suffer long-term problems including depression, trauma, and low self-esteem among women, and trauma among men. Studies show they are more likely to need intensive social supports as adolescents and to become more violent as adults.

San Francisco Can Prevent Violence in the Future by Finding and Treating Children Who Are Exposed to Violence Today.

The SafeStart Initiative is working to institutionalize services, staff training, and public policies needed to identify and intervene in families with violence and children who are exposed. The better we treat children who are exposed to violence, the more likely they are to avoid violent behaviors which appear later among adolescents and young adults.

We estimate that at least 10,000 children are exposed to domestic violence annually in San Francisco. Today there are over 50,000 adolescents and young adults in San Francisco who were exposed to violence as young children.

Prevent Child Abuse America has estimated the annual cost of child abuse at \$107,000 per child. Using this analysis, child abuse costs San Francisco \$135 million annually. Since children exposed to violence suffer similar injuries as abused children, using this estimate, children who are exposed to violence cost San Francisco \$3 billion in additional services and lost productivity every year.

What is the SafeStart Initiative?

San Francisco SafeStart is an initiative to prevent and reduce childhood exposure to violence. It is mostly funded by the U.S. Department of Justice through 2005. The initiative delivers services, develops policy, and engages in systems change.

The initiative's goals are to train staff who respond to families with children exposed to violence, improve the systems that respond, prevent childhood exposure to violence through public education, and intervene and treat exposed children. To find out more or to get help for a child exposed to violence, call the Support Line at 415-565-SAVE or visit <http://www.dcfy.org/safestart>.

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 03-54112

In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for Change of Name. The application of Sarah Kathryn Wells for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Kathryn Wells has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Kathryn Wells. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of February, 2004 at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272350-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: D-Rock Productions, 1261 Broderick Street #101, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daron Ker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272349-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nails by Wendy, 5933 Mission San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tam M. Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/29/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/29/03.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE 0271802-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Debra Diamo Hotel 106 Fern Court, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tsegal Berhe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/02/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/02/03.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2003

### STATEMENT FILE 0271802-00

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I hereby verify that I am over 18 years old

Signature

Mail to: Gay Comics • 395 Ninth Street • SF • CA • 94103

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 03-541068

In the Matter of the Application of Frederick William Hock for Change of Name. The application of Frederick William Hock for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frederick William Hock has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Andrea Ashley Chenie. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of January at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 03-540960

In the Matter of the Application of Sonya Sherrard for Change of Name. The application of Sonya Sherrard for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sonya Sherrard has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ducha Malika Jali. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of February at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

DEC. 25, 2003 JAN. 01, 08, 15, 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0272369-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Shear Bliss 422 Spruce Street San Francisco, CA 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Andrew Lucido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/30/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 12/30/2003.

JAN. 15, 22, 29, FEB. 5, 2004

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE

To whom it may concern: The name of the applicant(s) is Lew Jennings Louie. The applicant(s) listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 517 Clement Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Type of license applied for:

### 48-ON-SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES

JAN. 02, 2004

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, 400 MCALLISTER, SF, CA 94102, AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE #CPF-03-50352

HEATH STOYER, Petitioner, v. WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, a California limited liability company, and SEAN WALL, an individual, Respondents.

TO WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY and SEAN WALL: YOU ARE ORDERED to appear in Department 302 of this court, located at 400 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA on January 13th, 2004, at 9:30 am, then and there to show cause why the petition of HEATH STOYER for dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC should not be granted.

This order together with a copy of the petition to file herein and any declarations filed in support of the petition shall be served on SEAN WALL in the same manner as service of summons at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing, or as otherwise specified in an order allowing publication pursuant to CCP 415.50. You are notified that a petition has been filed by HEATH STOYER seeking dissolution of WHEN WILL WE RULE THE WORLD LLC and designation of HEATH STOYER as the member to wind up the affairs of the LLC. If said petition is granted, assets of the LLC will be sold and proceeds of sale applied in a manner according to law and as approved by the court. You must appear at the hearing on the date and at the time specified if you object to this petition. Dated November 4, 2003, Ronald Evans Quidachay, Judge of the Superior Court.

DEC. 25, JAN. 1, 2004

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**STATEMENT FILE A-0272200-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: All Four 303 Scott Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lloyd Campbell Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8/31/95. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/19/2003. DEC.25,2003 JAN. 1,8,15,2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272281-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: EXJAY, 460 Natomia #20 Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey P. Mainville. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/18/2003. DEC.25,2003 JAN. 1,8,15,2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272246-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lugh Arts 581 Duboce Ave, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Donald F. Folkers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/2003. JAN 01,8,15,22,2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272247-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Northpoint Gallery, 2 North Point Gallery, 2215 Powell Street San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lori Dodge. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/22/2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/2003. JAN 01,8,15,22,2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272248-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Prudential Arizona Properties 1888 206-0094, (602)571-4586

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272249-00**

The following person(s) are doing business as: RE/MAX 1100 11th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Donald F. Folkers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/97. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/2003. JAN 01,8,15,22,2004

**STATEMENT FILE A-0272250-00**

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**STATEMENT FILE A-0272251-00**

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**STATEMENT FILE A-0272255-00**

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**STATEMENT FILE A-0272261-00**

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**STATEMENT FILE A-0272300-00**

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**STATEMENT FILE A-0272301-00**

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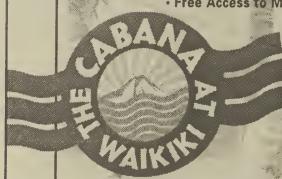
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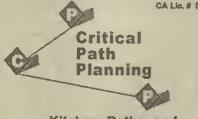
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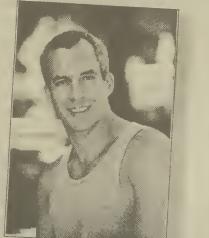
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pages 30, 32, 33, 38

**Ode about Eve**  
Eve Harrington revisited, in poem 'Phoebe 2002.'

page 31



**Homophobic homicides**  
'Nine Dead Gay Guys' is a corpse of a gay movie.

page 29



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 2 • 8 January 2004

## GERMANS BEHAVING BADLY

CASTRO THEATRE  
HOSTS THE 2004  
'BERLIN & BEYOND'  
FILM FESTIVAL

by David Lamble



Shattered Glass

Solino

Talk Straight

In its ninth year, the *Berlin & Beyond* festival (new films from Germany, Austria and Switzerland) strengthens its role as the opening act in San Francisco's year-round festival of festivals, and provides further evidence of its evolution into a kind of kissing cousin to the older Jewish Film Festival. Both film fests take on an almost unimaginably large chunk of human experience and attack it from every conceivable angle. With 24 features spread over 7 days at the Castro Theatre (supplemented by an 11 a.m. Sunday morning panel at the Goethe-Institut Auditorium, on the festival's theme of "Breaking Down Borders"), the festival gives a sense of the impact of German identity and culture on a host of diverse populations.

We realize just how it might feel to be an Aryan woman whose Jewish husband is suddenly abducted by the SS during the "final roundup" in the winter of 1943 (*Rosenstrasse* from Margarethe von Trotta, opening night, 1/8); how rural gay men endure the severely circumscribed "tolerance" of their stodgy Christian neighbors (*Talk Straight* from Jochen Hick, 1/13); what it's like to be an undocumented Kurdish teenager in Hamburg still mourning your dead parents while trying to get a handle on your drug-dealing, gay, African buddy who might like to fuck you (*A Little Bit of Freedom* from Yuksel Yavuz, 1/10); how a Croatian family implodes after a brave move to 1960s Stuttgart (*Going Home* from Damir Lukacevic, 1/13); how sibling rivalry between two devilishly hunky brothers renders very rocky

page 28 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

# Queer, not quiescent in the quiet season

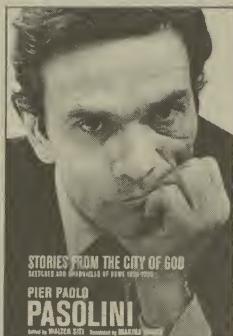
## Poring over Pier Paolo Pasolini, White, Ireland, and Schenkenberg

by Roberto Friedman

We're writing in that week of year when everyone's a little burnt out by the Xmas/New Year's onslaught. Let's say it's not a real good time to launch that new project, since we're all still trying to catch up with that rush of last-minute Oscar contenders, best-of lists, and gift books that came at us during the holidays.

That's why now is a perfect time to consider a few books in prose and pictures that have been piling up, through no fault of their own, here at the arts desk. Overlooked darlings in print, they were as fondly read as any best-of list.

*Stories from the City of God, Sketches and Chronicles of Rome* by **Pier Paolo Pasolini** (edited by **Walter Siti**, translated by **Marianna Harss**) consists of portraits of the Eternal City and her Romans, written by the filmmaker from when he first moved to the city in 1949. Some of the sketches from his journals of young hustlers, thieves and waifs were destined for development in Pasolini's novel *The Ragazzi*. We think others, observed children of the streets like "Trastevere Boy" and "The Dogfish," figured in the way

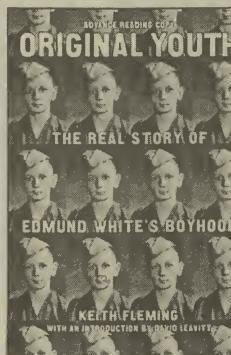


he filmed the faces in *Accatone!* or *Teorema*.

Asked to anthropomorphize Rome in an interview in *Il Messaggero*, Pasolini said, "I would ascribe to it that special gender of *ragazzi*. Adolescent. The appearance of a typical Roman kid from the outlying neighborhoods, dark hair, olive skin, black eyes, robust build. Slim, not exactly athletic. A bit like an Arab, not exactly athletic, but, let's say, harmoniously built."

Here's one such kid, **Morbidone** (a nickname meaning *Softy*), gazing rapturously at a garment he can't afford, in a shop window: "It was a sky-blue sweater, large, meant for a boxer's frame. Wide at the shoulders and chest, like a

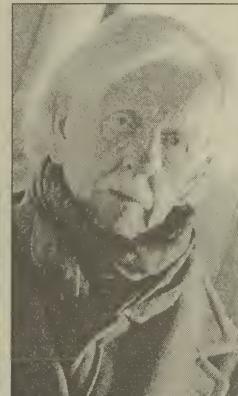
seascape, narrow at the waist. It was a light blue, both discreet and subtly alight. It would have been blinding in the sun on the Campo dei Fiori." And like the best love interest, unattainable.



A bit closer to home (well, Cincinnati, anyway), *Original Youth: The Real Story of Edmund White's Boyhood*, as recounted by White's nephew **Keith Fleming**

(whose own youthful memoir was *The Boy with the Thorn in His Side*) with an introduction by **David Leavitt**, is out from San Francisco's Green Candy Press. "Eddie's" boyhood is ground already covered, famously, in his fiction (the trilogy starting with *A Boy's Own Story*), but Fleming's closeness to his subject makes his authorial distance interesting. Pitfalls are a tendency towards preciousness (an analysis of the symbolism of White's imaginary playmates *Cottage Cheese, Georgie-Porgie* and *Tom-Thumb-Thumb*) and a distractingly foofy text typeface.

West Coast artist **David Ireland**'s work is regarded worldwide as that of a pre-eminent conceptual and installation artist, but if your eyes glaze over when you consider those terms, it's pos-



Artist David Ireland in 1999.

shower, such a practical boy! Thanks to the keepers of the digital ethers, who stack their 1s and 0s in rows so that they come out in the wash just this way.

### Shack love

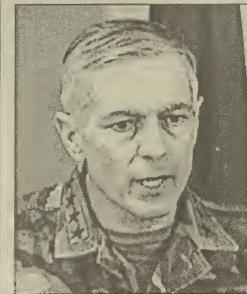
San Francisco resident **Tweaka Turner** took first place a couple Tuesdays back at Transyshack's *StarSearch* Contest. Hosted by **Heklina**, the event drew hundreds to The Stud on Harrison. Miss Turner reportedly swept the competition away with an reenactment of the capsizing of the SS Poseidon on New Year's Eve, followed by her rendition of **Maureen McGovern**'s deathless aria "(There's Got to be a) Morning After" from that movie. For her efforts, Miss Turner won porn videos and \$100. She stated that she felt both proud and humbled. Her next scheduled performance will be at Harvey's on Castro, Jan. 12, during the *Nice and Nasty Show* hosted by **Snatch** and **Chablis**. That's what Out There calls some home-brewed entertainment.

### Rips and drools

In her "good riddance" list of "50 things we'd like to see less of in 2004," the UK *Guardian's* **Rachel Cooke** flagged, as #5, the gay Member of Parliament **Chris Bryant** MP and his Y-fronts, as seen on his *Gaydar* profile. "Oh, the indignity! Cooke calls the pic 'proof, at last, that not all gay men have exquisite sartorial tastes.' But coming in strong as a grand annoyance (at #32) was London-dweller **Madonna**, for her first children's book. "Madge's" literary effort is cited for the very good reason that "it is possible to patronize children, you know."

### Model follow-up

Reaction to last week's debate re: Are all male models gay? has been 2 fast, 2 furious and 2 fey. Survey says, Well, apparently not all models qualify as bona fide sisters in the struggle, but supermodel **Marcus Schenkenberg** sure gratified the queer eye on the cover of the January *Out* (see OT, 1/1). Now over the pipes comes a stash of Internet pics of the Schenkenberg from his legendary **Calvin Klein** photo session some years back. Taking off his distressed CK jeans and washing them in the



Gen. Wesley Clark: ripped

Meantime, there was lots of juicy stuff in that takedown piece on Democratic presidential candidate **Gen. Wesley Clark** in *The Nation* last month, the one where reporter **Matt Taibbi** went undercover as a volunteer at the Clark campaign, pretending to be an adult-film director named **Rondell Abrams**. He tells campaign staff he's just made *Asian Ass Vixens 6* and the *East St. Louis Street Hookers* series. They reply, "Well, uh, we're glad to have you."

When Taibbi as "Abrams" suggests that the General try to reach out to voters by capitalizing on his sex appeal, a young campaign staffer immediately takes to the idea. Clark "showed me a picture of himself in a T-shirt," he attests. "He's really a ripped guy; his arms were showing. He called that his 'drool shirt.' So I think there's something there." We guess there is, if you go for those ramrod-straight types, but where would the military-industrial complex be without them? ▼



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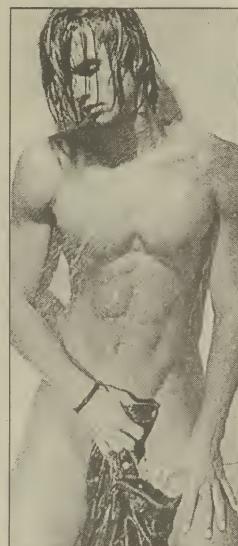
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It's washday for M. Schenkenberg

# Ranting in the face of absurdity

NYC writer/performer Mike Albo at Rhino

by Richard Dodds

Mike Albo finally has a day job. The New York performance artist who has spent 10 impoverished years in a professional rant against consumerism is now a fashion writer for a new men's magazine devoted entirely to shopping. Albo does see the irony of his situation.

"I'm completely in love with and completely hating our consumer culture," Albo said recently from New York. "It gives me great material, but it also lets me obsess about all the crap that's in our lives."

*Cargo* is the name of the new magazine that media giant Conde Nast plans to launch this spring as the male counterpart to its women's shopping magazine *Lucky*. "I'm not very fashional," Albo said, "but they wanted someone who would give it a bit more of a humorous spin and a real vibe."

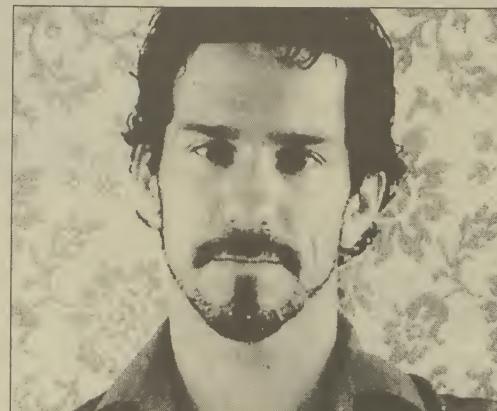
Albo has permission from his new employers to spend several weeks in San Francisco performing *Spray* at Theatre Rhino, running Jan. 15-Feb. 7. The one-man show, which Rhino artistic director John Fisher spotted at the 2002 SF Fringe Festival, is "like a poo-poo platter of my work," Albo said. "I've noticed that because I do short-attention-span monologues that I can pick and choose what vibrates at a certain time."

In the 10 or so monologues, rants, and dances that make up *Spray*, Albo plays characters variously swept up in a mass-marketed, status-driven society. He impersonates J. Lo's cell-phone-juggling personal assistant, does a patriotic chair-dance as Britney Spears, and creates a paean to advertising slogans delivered at machine-gun pace.

"There is also a character who keeps lurking through the whole thing called the underminer," Albo said. "He's the person who shows up in everybody's life, a good friend who knows everything about you, but winds up making you feel really terrible about yourself."

Only briefly does Albo appear in a guise resembling his real self. "There is this one moment when I am myself, mostly, when I'm telling the story of being the boyfriend of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf of the Persian Gulf War. I used to do it kind of sarcastically, but the director said to try doing it seriously, and I realized the way I treat the story is the way I feel about any guy who has ever jilted me."

The 34-year-old Albo, single and openly unhappy about it, generally doesn't include a lot of gay references in his material. "My performance side grew out of the coffeehouse '90s culture, and out of poetry readings and the writers' scene in New York, rather than the gay scene or the theater scene. I've always had more of a straight audience than a gay one," he said, adding, "This is really psychotic, but my friends tell me I



Albo presents an evening of 'short-attention-span monologues' in *Spray*.

get straighter on stage."

There apparently wasn't much that was straight about little Mike Albo, who grew up in a suburb of Washington, DC. His older brothers tried to butch him up, and when he finally came out, it wasn't much of a surprise to anyone. "I was so obvious so my parents had already done their thinking about it," he said. "My masculinity was kind of not there. Now I kind of enjoy my masculinity."

Albo chronicled his family life in fictional form in the novel *Hornito: My Lie Life*, published by HarperCollins in 2001. *The Underminer*, a novel built around the character seen in *Spray*, will be published this year by Bloomsbury USA. "And there's a book I want to write about a three-way relationship gone awry because of crystal meth." A new play, *Three Women in Indecision*, opens in New York in February. And he's started acting in other people's plays.

The poet-playwright-novelist-journalist-actor-performance artist has been told he should focus his creativity if he wants to get ahead, but that isn't his style. "All I want to do is communicate," Albo said. "I get a little afraid that I'm the only one who feels this way about the world, and me performing is me saying, 'Please acknowledge that the world is as absurd as I think it is.'"

For info about *Spray*, call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

## Memphis memories

A new musical about the birth of rock 'n' roll is the latest foray by TheatreWorks into new and/or unusual musical theater. *Memphis*, opening Jan. 24 in Mountain View, uses the story of a white disc jockey who plays "race music" to his white listeners in Memphis in the early 1950s to explore its musical subject.

It could have taken a jukebox approach, but *Memphis* features new songs with music by David Bryan, composer-keyboardist with Bon Jovi; and lyrics and book by Joe DiPietro, most famous for the long-running revue *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

*Memphis* is a co-production be-



Chad Kimball in *Memphis*

tween TheatreWorks and North Shore Music Theatre of Massachusetts, where the musical debuted in September (though that hasn't prevented TheatreWorks from also using the world-premiere label). Broadway veteran Chad Kimball continues in the leading role of a Memphis DJ based on the real-life Dewey Phillips. Gabriel Barre, who directed *Summer of '42* for TheatreWorks, has staged the new musical.

For ticket info, call (650) 903-6000 or go to theatrworks.org.

## New bookings

Theatre Rhino and New Conservatory Theatre Center both have added new productions to their announced schedules.

First up will be Harry C. Cronin's *Dooley* and Michael D. Jackson's *A Taste of Heaven*, a double bill of one-acts opening at NCTC on Jan. 23. *Dooley*, first seen at the John Sims Center in 2002, deals with gay entrapment in the military based on the actual experience of Dr. Thomas Dooley. *A Taste of Heaven*, seen at the NY Fringe Festival last year, is based on the 19th-century diaries of American poet F.S. Ryman, who chronicled his same-sex relationships of growing intimacy with a college friend.

Theatre Rhino has added *Vita & Virginia* to its schedule, opening Feb. 19 to fill the hole caused by the delay of *Flaming Iguanas* (now set to open April 1). The play follows the love affair between Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf from 1922 until Woolf's suicide in 1941. *Vita & Virginia*, adapted by actress Eileen Atkins from its subjects' letters, originated in London in 1992, before moving to New York with Atkins and Vanessa Redgrave in the title roles. ▶

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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## Berlin & Beyond

◀ Arts cover

an Italian family's '60s pilgrimage to open up Duisburg's first pizza restaurant (*Solino* from Fatih Akin, closing night, 1/14); and, if the German heartland is becoming as ethnically eclectic as America, how this fact of life goes over with a silent plurality of Austrians (*State of the Nation*, from four directors, 1/14).

Impossible as it is to screen every tasty morsel in advance in a program that features new work from such veterans as von Trotta and Wim Wenders (*Ode to Cologne - A Rock 'n' Roll Film*), we'll preview our personal top five films, giving appropriate attention to random penis sightings.



*Little Bit of Freedom*: darkly funny

A Little Bit of Freedom Americans have had a tremendous impact on the life of the Kurdish people, yet we know precious little about them. Baran, orphaned when a rival faction murdered his parents in their village in Turkey,



*Angst* delivers full frontal male nudity and anguished hetero S/M.

struggles to be the hero of his own life while working under the table at his uncle's Hamburg fast-food joint. A darkly funny opening scene describes the perils of tooth decay when the dentist is your boss, and the tools are whatever is handy in the kitchen. Director Yuksel Yavuz (winner of the festival's 2000 Best Feature Award for *April Children*) adroitly structures the film around shots caught by Baran's videocamera, which will both influence his fate and provide a mirror to his soul and troubled past. This conceit includes a very unusual flashback device: the previous contents of the tape Baran is taping over.

Baran, shy around girls and drawn to a young gay African runaway with bottle-blond hair and a dangerous job as a drug-dealer, accidentally encounters an older man from his village who may know something about why his parents were killed. Baran is forced to carve out his future using a gun or a camera. Featuring one of the festival's only homo sex scenes and a haunting performance from the young lead actor, *A Little Bit of Freedom* is a challenging supplement to the evening news. (1/10)

**Talk Straight** Jochen Hick is best known to Frameline audiences for his 1991 feature, *Via Appia*, a German sex tourist's search for a Brazilian hustler who "welcomed him to the AIDS club"; and *No One Sleeps*, an East German doctor's pursuit of a serial killer through a San Francisco demimonde of sex clubs and opera queens.

In *Talk Straight*, Hick shows how four gay Germans cope with being out in the sticks. A 20-something forestry worker is taunted by his workmates; a late-30s guy who lusts after men in uniforms confesses the difficulty of finding one true friend; an HIV-positive man in his late 50s finds a degree of contentment in a non-erotic daddy/son relationship with a straight Thai boy, while still dueling for acceptance from his stiff-necked older German neighbors; and a 78-year-old man recalls discovering his identity in a park in 1933, and escaping over the Swiss border to relative freedom. Switzerland unexpectedly decriminalized homosexuality in 1942.

Hick demonstrates why some rural German gays decide to become sexual tourists in their own country, and gives a chilling example or two of old attitudes that never seem to change. An elderly woman stares into Hick's camera and recalls how gays were made to disappear during the days of the Third Reich. Hick makes clever use of time-lapse photography to give us a sense of all the miles these four men have to log in

order to satisfy their desires. (1/13)

**Solino** The most mainstream of the films screened, this feature from Fatih Akin (one of a generation of young German filmmakers from Middle Eastern backgrounds) uses a young man's love affair with movie-making as a template for the heartfelt story of a family of four who leave Southern Italy to start a pizzeria in the Germany of the 1960s. Romano the papa is an old-fashioned, macho womanizer who expects his wife and sons to obey and serve as cheap labor for his dreams. Rosa the mother spends 20 years in emotional exile until illness allows her to return to her beloved village. Gigi is the younger, sensitive brother whose way with the girls and talent for filmmaking stir jealousy and resentment in his shiftless older brother, Giancarlo. An ironic fate switches their destinies, and we root to the very final scene to see if Gigi will triumph over cruel fate and a treacherous sibling. Gigi, played as an adult by a slim-waisted, long-haired actor with the impish charm of the young Michael Crawford, is very appealing in a medium shot in his Italian-cut briefs and nothing else. (1/14)

**Shattered Glass** Very much in the tradition of German family blood-feuds to the death (like Luchino Visconti's *The Damned*), *Shattered Glass* (*Scherbentanz*, or *Fragments*) pits Jesko, a 30-something man who favors the hairstyles of Boy George, against his brother and father, who have summoned him to the family mansion on the pretext of attending a party. Suffering from cancer, Jesko is offered the Faustian bargain of a reunion with his mentally ill and long-estranged mother in the hopes that her bone marrow might save his life. Played out in the rain-soaked atmosphere of a decaying country estate, *Shattered Glass* includes a painfully vivid depiction of child abuse, and manages to subvert clichés about the dark-night-of-the-soul tendencies of Northern Europeans. (1/14)

**Angst** And if you want another huge helping of sexually troubled Germans behaving badly, Oskar Roehler's *Angst* has all you can ask for. A troubled playwright, Robert, faces the bed death of his 10-year marriage to a woman doctor, the actual death of his novelist father, and the wages of his private sin: screwing prostitutes. Hit-and-miss in the drama department (Robert's hang-ups and plays are a tad over-the-top), *Angst* does deliver full frontal male nudity and some anguished hetero S/M. Not for all tastes. (1/11) ▼

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# Moore is more, and Goode is plenty

## Chasing Mandy Moore & Matthew Goode

by Gregg Shapiro

**R**adiant and good-natured, young Mandy Moore has branched out from being a teen recording sensation to a career in film. In 2003, she held her own with Allison Janney in *How To Deal*. Last year she also released her most rewarding CD, *Coverage* (Epic), on which she performs the songs of Joni Mitchell, Joan Armatrading, Elton John, Joe Jackson, John Hiatt and The Waterboys. In her new movie, *Chasing Liberty*, Moore plays Anna, the teenage daughter of the President (Mark Harmon) who longs for a little freedom from the watchful eye of the Secret Service.

**G**regg Shapiro: Since you're close in age to some recent first daughters, I was wondering if you'd ever met them.

**M**andy Moore: I saw Chelsea Clinton at Bergdorf-Goodman shopping with her boyfriend one

day. I wanted to walk up to her, but then I thought it's her private time, and I don't want to invade that. I watched from afar for a little bit.

Did you base any of the character of Anna on Chelsea, or on Barbara or Jenna Bush?

No, their lives are so guarded, and rightfully so because of the position that they're in. I decided to approach Anna essentially as what she is, which is an average 18-year-old.

How did you like shooting in Europe?

I loved it, it was definitely one of the reasons I wanted to do the movie. I'd never traveled to Prague or Venice before.

There's the wonderful scene in the movie at the Love Parade in Berlin, where there are lots of rainbow flags, gays and straights together.

I love what the Love Parade

stands for. It was cool to be a part of it.

**A**bout your co-star, Matthew Goode: Did you get that young Rupert Everett/Hugh Grant sort of thing, definitely?

### Goode news

It's true: gorgeous and well-mannered, Goode oozes leading-man star quality. In *Chasing Liberty*, Goode makes a good impression as a government agent protecting the daughter of the President of the United States. The role of Ben in *Chasing Liberty* is the equivalent of Joe, played by Gregory Peck, in *Roman Holiday*. I asked Matthew Goode how it felt to be filling those shoes.

**M**atthew Goode: It definitely is an homage to *Roman Holiday*, but I don't think it has the weight of that. Peck's obviously older in that film. The part of Ben can't really be a direct comparison to that, but it's nice that someone is making



Anna (Mandy Moore) with agent Ben (Matthew Goode) in *Chasing Liberty*

ing the comparison.

attended the Love Parade before?

I'm so badly traveled. To be honest with you, I didn't even know it existed. But I'm definitely going back now. ▼



The Desperate Dwarf has a 3-and-a-half-inch penis. This passes for humor.

# One moribund gay movie

## Avoid 'Nine Dead Gay Guys'

by David Lamble

**S**adly, *Nine Dead Gay Guys* is a million-dollar title for a three-dollar movie. I saw it for free and still feel cheated of the 83 minutes I'll never get back. For readers thinking of coughing up nine bucks to see for themselves (a dollar a stiff), be forewarned: Lab Ky Mo's first feature (he's an ethnic Chinese guy who grew up in Ireland), advertised as a comedy, has about 15 minutes of story. This means that every plotline, every set-up, and every punchline is repeated and repeated and repeated.

The opening voiceover features a handsome Irish deadbeat, Byron (Brendan MacKey), who lives in what looks like an industrial warehouse and earns his booze money by giving blowjobs to gay men. Byron has an underachieving buddy, Kenny (Glenn Mulhern), whom he recruits into this low-stress, highly remunerative pastime, which carries what you might call gay-panic insurance: A guy who's paid for giving bj's can't be gay himself.

*Nine Dead Gay Guys* bears the postmodern curse of an outrageous premise that fails to amuse. Characters with names like Golders Green (an orthodox Jewish

guy who looks three ways every time he lets a trick into his townhouse); The Desperate Dwarf (with a three-and-a-half-inch penis, and who insists about 10 times that he's not a midget); and Dick Cheese Deepak (a Pakistani cabdriver straight out of Bollywood — that is, if Bollywood did bad gay jokes) are what comedy writers at the UPN network would spitball if kept up for 24 hours and fed mad-cow pizza.

Even the title's salacious promise isn't all it's cracked up to be: With 20 minutes to go, the film still had five murders to complete. I suspected the filmmakers would have to punt or cheat. They did both.

With a title that should make it a hot rental item and a cable staple (especially if we get pay-for-view queer TV), *Nine Dead Gay Guys* could become a franchise: a summer play at Studio Rhino, a five-day-a-week strip series on Bravo, or a reality program for the terminally jaded. Escape it now while you can: rent *Who Is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe* (half of them were probably queer), *The Station Agent* (a vastly superior dwarf), or even *Cruising*. ▼

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# Music for the age of insanity

Leif Ove Andsnes captures the *Zeitgeist* in Schumann

by Tim Pfaff

Despite continuing problems in the industry, fine classical CDs abounded last year. The CDs I still listen to (after filing my reviews, the acid test) were by kids, albeit of varying ages. The astonishing, 22-year-old Yundi Li's Liszt CD (DG) gets better with each spin, and I'm flabbergasted anew every time I hear the live performances EMI captured of the Franck Violin Sonata and Rachmaninov Cello Sonata by the Cupecún brothers, violinist Renaud and cellist Gautier, in their mid- and early-20s, respectively. Then, although these guys probably already know the value of Vitamin V, Nigel Kennedy's *East Meets West* (EMI) and Christopher O'Riley's *True Love Waits* (Sony), too, have real staying power.

Two CDs that made everyone else's list of the year's best both include music by Robert Schu-

mann, who seems just the right composer to represent the year's pervasive insanity. One of my most cherished private beliefs is that no one really understands the deeply crazed Schumann, but certain musicians can get on his wavelength. That almost happens in Leif Ove Andsnes' performance of the composer's Piano Concerto (coupled with Grieg's equally famous warhorse), with the Berlin Philharmonic under Mariss Jansons (EMI). It decidedly does in the Zehetmair Quartett's splendid performances of the first and third of Schumann's Opus 41 String Quartets (ECM).

Andsnes is having his moment in the fickle winter sun of the music press. This deeply musical but uneven performer is praised for his artistic selflessness, a quality most pianists would deem damning but which the mild-mannered, 32-year-old Norwegian seems to embrace. One of the best American critics admires the



"beautifully self-effacing quality" of his artistry and its "Apollonian restraint." So did I, until I heard him apply it to the Rachmaninov Third Concerto, which had exactly those qualities in near defiance of the score. Pianists don't get more reliable and obliging than Andsnes, but what others see as his supremely relaxed playing often seems to me like musical sleepwalking. This is a musical stunt better left to the Maria Callas.

His new CD, which relatively bristles with personality, opens with a Grieg Concerto that breathes new life into a work so overexposed that virtually no one else plays it anymore. Spurred on by the Berlin Philharmonic under Jansons' incisive baton, Andsnes nonetheless leads the concerto, with nimble fingers, artistic co-gency, and his trademark deep

affinity for the music of Grieg. I've wondered how much fellow feeling he has for the composer, who, besides being Norwegian, is thought to have been gay.

While Andsnes nails the icy grandeur of the piece, he also brings out its delicacy. A high level of ensemble musicianship lends the work a compellingly organic, shape-shifting quality others have overlooked. Regrettably, the Schumann sounds as old-fashioned as the Grieg does fresh. Andsnes and Jansons opt for the larger sonorities of old, and the work sounds labored and overwrought.

## Thorns of plenty

Schumann's Opus 41 String Quartets are more mature works, from 1842, so they're much thornier music. Consequently, they're also as unknown as the Piano Concerto is overexposed. Yet you wouldn't guess their difficulty from the seemingly effortless performances the Zehetmair Quartett gives of Nos. 1 and 3, which probably explains the disc's receiving the coveted Record of the Year Award from *Gramophone* magazine.

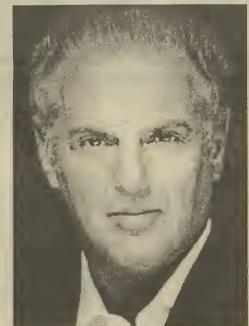
The key to late Schumann is skillful negotiation of the music's quicksilver changes of mood and meter. The Zehetmair (named for its principal violinist, Thomas Ze-



hetmair, who has a major career as a solo violinist, here complemented by violinist Matthias Metzger, violist Ruth Killius, and cellist Françoise Groben) tear through the pieces with the kind of tensile-steel, turn-on-a-dime ensemble that allows them to let things rip with no risk of musical mayhem.

The results are exhilarating. In the A-Minor Quartet (No. 1), the contrasts between the almost drowsy first and third movements and the nearly manic second and fourth are pronounced. Still, the sheer security of the playing keeps the music from sounding like it's going off the rails. While their sound is richly lacquered, they're not shy of the slashing gesture when needed.

The Quartett's rhythmic bancing act in the A-Major Quartet (No. 3) is spellbinding. With conversational ease, they discourse like Jesuits with soul. When you see a Schumann movement marked "Assai agitato," as the second is, you know to fasten your seatbelts; the Quartett does not disappoint in the promised wild ride. ▼



Daniel Barenboim comes to Davies.

## Berlin visits SF

by Jason Serinus

**B**erlin's oldest orchestra, the Staatskapelle Berlin, has just embarked on its second US tour in 433 years. Conducted by Daniel Barenboim, Music Director since 1992 and elevated to "chief conductor for life" in 2000, the East Berlin ensemble's coast-to-coast tour begins in Palm Desert, CA, on January 8, reaches San Francisco on January 11, and culminates in four January 21-25 performances in New York's Carnegie Hall. The programs, which showcase the major works of Robert Schumann (1810-56), come on the heels of Teldec Classics' release of the Staatskapelle Berlin's two-disc set of Schumann's four symphonies.

Some who have heard the orchestra claim that the fact that it remained sequestered behind the Berlin Wall from 1961-89 enabled

it to maintain the prewar Central European musical tradition. Given that its Jewish conductor would have been less than welcome during extended periods of German history, the description can only refer to what a *Chicago Tribune* critic called its "warm, dark glow and plush tone so typical of Central European orchestras from the late 19th-century."

In Davies Symphony Hall, the Staatskapelle performs Schumann's Second and Third Symphonies preceded by the *Manfred* Overture. The Symphony No. 2 in C Major was sketched in December 1845 while Schumann was recovering from a nervous breakdown. He constantly complained of "singing" in his inner ear while undertaking the orchestration, describing the first movement as "full of struggle capricious and obstinate." It was only as he worked on the final movement that he started to feel better.

Schumann's mental state can be sensed in the restless forward momentum of the opening allegro, the fierce ending of the second movement scherzo, the uneasy but touching Adagio, and the triumphant concluding Allegro. Not the most immediately likable of Schumann's symphonies, it does not seem to elicit Barenboim's deepest symphonies.

Barenboim delivers an exhilarating, irresistible performance of the Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, *Rhenish*. The last symphony Schumann wrote, this joyous celebration of German's Rhine land begins exultantly. The second movement, growing in intensity, is lovely, the middle song-like movement gratifyingly lyrical. The famed fourth movement, inspired by a visit to Cologne cathedral, is to be performed "in the style of an accompaniment to a solemn ceremony." Barenboim's solemn majesty captures German religiosity to a T. The thrilling finale bodes well for this rare second San Francisco visit by a fabled Berlin orchestra in a matter of months. ▼

The Staatskapelle Berlin plays Davies Symphony Hall Sun., Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: (415) 864-6000, [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org).

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# All about Eve in verse

Poet David Trinidad on 'Phoebe 2002'

by Gregg Shapiro

*Phoebe 2002 - An Essay in Verse* by David Trinidad, Jeffery Conway and Lynn Crosbie; Turtle Point Press, \$21.95

*Phoebe 2002* is an epic poetic collaboration among poets David Trinidad, Jeffery Conway and Lynn Crosbie. The three poets turn their focus to the classic 1950 movie *All About Eve*, its stars (Bette Davis, Anne Baxter, Celeste Holm, Marilyn Monroe, George Sanders), and the impact the movie has had on contemporary culture. They also work in references to numerous other movies, characters in Greek mythology, and television and music. I asked Trinidad why he

chose *All About Eve*.

David Trinidad: It's one of the few films that really registered with me and has stayed with me all my life. Lynn Conway, who lives in Toronto, came to visit me when I was living in New York, and we watched *All About Eve* together. The scene where Eve is caught holding the dress up to herself in front of the mirror: we froze it, and watched her culpable expression as she clutches it to herself.

Four years ago, I broke up with my partner of many years. To make myself feel less lonely, I suggested that the three of us [Conway and Crosbie] do a *renga* chain, which is a Japanese party poem. Lynn suggested a poem in rhymed couplets analyzing *All About Eve*. Of course, the rhymed couplets would have been too

hard, so we started out on *Phoebe*, not knowing it would grow into such a huge monster.

Gregg Shapiro: In *Phoebe*, there are poems within poems, songs sung to the tunes of other songs, a recipe, and math equations. The book also has a gay sensibility — how could it not, given the subject matter? Are all three collaborators openly gay?

No, just Jeffery and myself. Lynn is a straight woman. I think at one point we dub her an honorary gay man in the book.

Are there other classic movies or actresses ripe for this kind of elaborate deconstruction?

No, I'd hate to have to repeat it again. It was like the song from *Gilligan's Island*. I thought it was



going to be a three-hour tour, and we ended up stranded on this island. I thought it might be 50 pages long and it might take us a few months to write. It ended up being a three-year commitment. Once I was in it, I wanted to see it through.

But I had no idea at the onset what a huge project it would be.

There was something about doing it with two other people. It was like a conversation between us. I can remember being a kid and watching a movie, and the way that you really want to live in a movie. Then the movie is over, and you're sad because you have to go back to real life. Working on *Phoebe* really enabled me to live in that movie for three years. There are certain movies that you enter so completely. I think that was part of the appeal. ▼

## Uptown, downtown lowdown

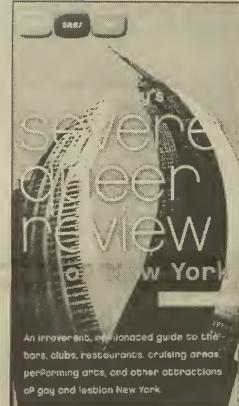
by Robert Julian

Betty & Pansy's *Severe Queer Review of New York* (Third Edition); Cleis Press, \$16.95

Every backroom bar in Manhattan should hang crepe over its entrance to honor this third and final edition of Betty and Pansy's gay-as-a-goose guidebook. Former clerks at San Francisco's A Different Light bookstore, these anonymous gay male authors first penned their *Severe Queer Review of San Francisco* in 1990. Similar surveys of Washington DC and New York City followed. In the introduction to their current release, the authors bid a fond farewell to publishing endeavors, and the gay world will be a much poorer place in their absence.

Since 1996, "Betty" has lived in New York City and "Pansy" in Montana. In announcing their retirement, the authors explain, "We have enjoyed our experiences researching, writing, and publishing the *Severe Queer Review* series, but no longer have the interest we once had in bar culture." All that talent, and maturity, too? Assuming they've mastered the art of the blowjob, these girls will make wonderful wives for someone.

Like all the books in the series, *Betty and Pansy's Severe Queer Review of New York* is full of smart-ass, sarcastic, tongue-in-butcheek observations that give readers the real scoop on gay venues: bars, restaurants, hotels, beaches, and sex clubs. And their refusal to accept advertising from any source unleashes their tongues in some rather spectacular ways. Queer culture topics like "film" and "art" are given short shrift in this third edition, and their deletion would not harm the publication. And how could Betty and Pansy omit Manhattan's one and only Gold's Gym from their chapter on Gyms



and Yoga? But these are minor omissions in a thorough and highly entertaining exploration of contemporary gay urban culture.

Serious and not-so-serious culture mavens will have ample opportunity to laugh out loud. The chapter on Fire Island is spot-on. For instance, the infamous Botel is accurately described as "an ideal hotel if you just got out of Riker's Island" and the dreadful Belvedere's amenities include "a nonfunctional pool and Jacuzzi, dirty linens, broken windows and/or screens, two rusty Nautilus machines that make up the 'gym,' and crazy trolls peeking in your windows looking for action."

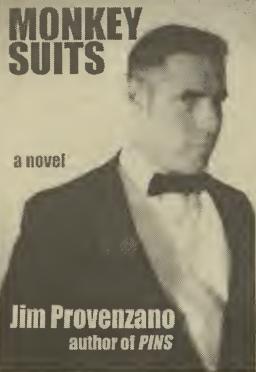
Betty and Pansy also chart the move of the gay Zeitgeist from the West Village to the East Village and Chelsea. Some of their inimitable prose is worth repeating, because it's not just the quantity of dish that makes these guidebooks soar, but the delicious manner in which each boite is sautéed. Consider: "All in all, if you've got a 20 burning a hole in your pocket, are a lurky straight man grooving on tranny booty, are in need of some quick cash and look good in a

dress, or are Nan Goldin on a new photo assignment, Edelweiss is the place for you." Or how about the Duplex bartender described as totally hot, "but we lost our hard-on the moment he started singing Harry Chapin and talking about his therapist while whipping the tambourine around like he was Susan Dey in *The Partridge Family*."

Ah, Betty and Pansy, we (and, yes, I am using the royal plural) will miss you. However, I have the sneaky feeling that publisher Cleis Press knows a good thing when it owns one. I fully expect little Mini-Me's in Betty and Pansy drag to be popping up nationwide to carry on the tradition. In the meantime, we have this third edition of New York to recall the glory of what once was. ▼

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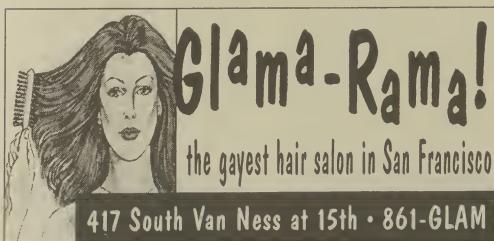
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# Creative conception

## Classic 'Christ in Concrete' out on DVD

by Matthew Kennedy

Canadian-born Edward Dmytryk (1908-99) was doing well in Hollywood before 1947, having worked up the ranks from editor to first-rate director of such solid efforts as *Murder My Sweet* and *Crossfire*. Then his 1945 Communist Party membership led to an investigation by the House Un-American Activities Committee and a year in jail. After his release, Dmytryk moved to England and attempted to make movies there. There were others abroad who were blacklisted by the HUAC, and together with screenwriter Ben Barzman and actor Sam Wanamaker, Dmytryk found revenge.

Such is the set-up for the making of *Christ in Concrete*, a remarkable movie based on a 1939 semi-autobiographical novel by Pietro di Donato about Italian immigrants struggling to survive in New York in the '20s. The movie takes on a big slab of American urban history, tracing the intersection of Old World frugality and superstition with New World false optimism and greed. Around every corner is heartbreak. The central character, bricklayer Geremio, sacrifices loyalty for ambition, and suffers disproportionately.

His wife, the shy Annuziata, wants nothing more than a home to call her own, but her dream becomes an obsession that threatens to destroy the family. Geremio's friends are alienated as he jumps at the chance to be a foreman, but his triumph turns to disaster. Skilled men suffer humiliations when the only work they can get is shoveling snow. Dmytryk even risks losing our sympathy for Geremio by giving him a com-

forting girlfriend when his wife grows slovenly. At every turn we see a harsh critique of the failure of American capitalism to provide for its laborers in time of need.

*Christ in Concrete* potently reminds us that good people can be drawn to darkness when fortune and luck fail them. In that respect, the film appears less sentimental than *A Place in the Sun*, *Marty*, or any other mainstream treatment of America's class system.

The performances are spot-on. As Geremio, Sam Wanamaker was acting in his second movie, yet he carries the starring role like a commanding veteran. As Annuziata, Lea Padovani must devolve from dark-eyed youthful beauty to the ghost of disappointment, which she accomplishes expertly. The camerawork by C. Pennington Richards is some of the best of the era, with the city streets, darkened hallways, and construction sites void of any softened corners. Richards gave *Concrete* an astonishing look, which manages to suggest both film noir and Italian neorealism. The deep-focus black-and-white photography evokes a handful of strong movies yet to be made, including *On the Waterfront* and *Pickup on South Street*. Visually, *Christ in Concrete* looks like the most influential movie nobody ever saw.

### Grand obsession

It's no stretch to suggest that artistic exile served Dmytryk well. So much about this film is anathema to American filmmaking of the '40s: the rare attention paid to immigrants' daily lives, the depiction of a wife and mother as something less than a saint, and the exploitation of American labor. The obsession of home ownership, complete with its painful consequences to the pro-

tagonist's marriage, is a theme more fitting to neorealism or the bluntest of O'Neill dramas. *Concrete* shares its rough-edged moral outrage with Visconti's *La Terra Tremata*, but its gilded professionalism with Wilder's *Double Indemnity*. It's a knock-out combination.

*Christ in Concrete* excels in the details. Its observations of Italian immigrant life have the ring of authenticity as mother dilutes the wine for the children at dinner, friends indelicately attack a plate of spaghetti, or various superstitions are ritualized. And the film is brimming with music, supplied by on-screen singers or through the rich orchestrations of composer Benjamin Frankel, another unbending Communist.

The hodgepodge of DVD extras is problematic. An extended chat with di Donato's son Peter and film historian Bill Wasserzieher isn't as compelling



as it might have been. Pietro di Donato's grainy home-movie footage has value only in marketing. Commentary over the movie offers quotes from the book and discussion of a remake with Robert DeNiro. The three speakers, author Norma Barzman, film professor Fred Gardaphe, and Richard Di Donato, all have valuable contributions, but they annoyingly talk over each other in their zeal for the movie.

For the most part, *Christ in Concrete* amazes with its clear-eyed purpose. Its journey from

obscurity to rediscovery is a tale in itself. It was shot in 1948 entirely in England, save for the opening credit shots of the canyons of Manhattan. It was released in '49 and lasted one week on a screen in New York before it was pulled due to its subversive content and blacklisted creative team. In '51, Dmytryk named names to the HUAC, and was rewarded with plum assignments like *The Caine Mutiny* and *Rainbow County*. By the time he directed *The Carpetbaggers* in 1964, Dmytryk's Communist ideals and Capitalist warnings were nowhere to be found. *Christ in Concrete* received periodic, unheralded reissues under alternate titles *Give Us This Day* and *Salt to the Devil*, but for the most part it has gone unseen. Today it appears as if out of nowhere, bereft of a critical reputation. See it fast. Such a condition of being isn't likely to continue. ▼

# From Bulgaria to Berkeley

## Vesselina Kasarova & Kitka take us there

by Jason Serinus

Two very different tours of Eastern Europe folk music, one from Bulgaria, the other from Berkeley, yield passionately sung, equally rewarding accounts. Both convey the soul-touching poignancy and unique harmonies of music from another time and place.



In the liner notes to *Vesselina Kasarova: Bulgarian Soul* (BMG), rich-voiced Bulgarian mezzo-soprano Vesselina Kasarova refers to her native land as "my basis as a human being and as an artist." While she may have built her in-

ternational career on operatic fare, Kasarova here returns to the elemental folk music that has nurtured her since childhood.

*Bulgarian Soul* more than deserves its title. The sincerity of this music clearly touches the mezzo to her core; her contributions are deeply felt. Kasarova's training yields a vibrant, lush sound, providing luscious contrast to the characteristically nasal, harder-edged backup of the Cosmic Voices from Bulgaria, a women's folk ensemble on the order of Bulgaria's famous *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*. Indeed, on the several selections in which Kasarova and the Cosmic Voices forego accompaniment by the Sofia Soloists Chamber Orchestra, the women create such an arresting display of colors and textures that one easily forgets that they sing *a cappella*.

The drawback involves the selections themselves. With all but two titles arranged by Bulgarian music specialists Krassimir Kyurkchisky, and the other two composed by him, many tracks exhibit a sameness of tempo and overly romantic affect that homogenizes their impact. Despite the immensely satisfying beauty of Kasarova's heartfelt vocalism, this disc is best sampled in pieces rather than played straight through.

### Class act

Comparing Kasarova's major-label efforts to those of a West Coast women's folk ensemble's independently-produced disc may seem like folly, but Kitka's *Wintersongs* (Diaphonica) is in a class apart. The ensemble, founded in 1979, has since become recognized as the foremost exponent of Balkan and Slavic choral repertoire in the US. Kitka (which means "bouquet" in Bulgarian and Macedonian) is currently comprised of nine women plus a few "satellite" singers who join in on select concerts and recordings. All of Kitka's major vocalists visited the mountain village of Ko-



vachevtsi, Bulgaria in June 2002, where they lived in rustic surroundings, coached with members of the famed women's chorus *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*, and performed with them in concert.

*Wintersongs* is a collection of 20 Eastern European sacred and ritual songs. Selections range from "Tec, Peleite, Zernju Zogtu," a Pagan Latvian solstice song sung in the ancient language of Latgalian, to carols and Christmas/New Year songs from Moravia, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, the Ukraine, Belarus, and Greece. Besides "Ma Navu," a familiar Israeli folk dance melody that blesses goodness, deliverance, and peace; and "Shchedrik," a Ukrainian song from early in the last century that was transformed by American schoolteacher Peter Wilhousky into the oft-heard "Carol of the Bells"; the unfamiliarity of the selections makes them suitable for year-round enjoyment.

Kitka's wisdom in choosing eclectic repertoire results in illuminating contrasts of tempo, emotional content, and harmonies. A number of selections originate from the repertoire of native folk ensembles; the arrangements retain the color of native traditions without overly romanticizing them. Kitka convincingly immerses us in the passion and ritual celebration at the root of all earth-centered culture. With the soft singing an especial highlight, this is a wonderful disc. ▼

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## MUSIC

# Divas demand attention

## From Reba McEntire to April March, women who matter out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

Reba McEntire is one busy country diva. What with a stint on Broadway (*Annie Get Your Gun*) and a popular WB series (*Reba*), McEntire's been so busy that her new album *Room to Breathe* (MCA) is her first studio



effort in a few years. As always, McEntire has a knack for finding songs that suit her voice and her style. "Moving Oleta" is the most touching song about the traumas facing an elderly couple since Kathy Mattea sang "Where Have You Been?" Reba glorifies her gospel roots on "Sky Full of Angels."



Pink is the genuine article, not a pre-fab Disney doll. It's almost impossible to reconcile the Pink of *Try This* (Arista), her raucous and rebellious new album, with the Pink of her 2000 cookie-cutter

hip-hop debut *Can't Take Me Home*. Gone are the hip-hop pretensions, replaced by a rhythmic rock vibe in which the colorful singer sounds completely at home. Pink doesn't forsake her dance connection, and gives her club fans plenty of dance-floor fillers such as "God Is a DJ." She also refines her rock edge, guaranteeing a shelf-life for her music that will surpass most of her contemporaries.



On her sophomore effort, *Folklore* (DreamWorks), Nelly Furtado once again displays a maturity unparalleled by many of her contemporaries. The opening track, "One-Trick Pony," begins with a stunning string arrangement performed by the Kronos Quartet. Furtado continues to move smoothly between musical styles, incorporating elements of hip-hop, folk pop, world ("Forca" features Bela Fleck on banjo; "Island of Wonder" has guest vocals by Caetano Veloso) and haunting ballads.

After an intriguing disc of cover tunes and a rather uninspired live recording, Rickie Lee Jones has returned to form with her best album of original tunes in years, *The Evening of My Best Day* (V2). Jones edges ever closer to jazz vocals and arrangements on "Ugly Man" (a stinging indictment of the Bush dynasty) and the Brazilian/French-accented



"Bitchenostrophy" (with Grant Lee Phillips on backing vocals). Jones conjures her early years as well as a tip of the hat to Steely Dan on "Second Chance" and feels the funk on "Little Mysteries," "Lap Dog" and "Mink Coat at the Bus Stop" are bluesy numbers, and the testifying gospel of "Tell Somebody (Repeal the Patriot Act)" is her most political tune.



Ask any Sarah McLachlan fan, and they'll probably tell you that it's the Lilith Fair godmother's voice, the aural equivalent of hot herbal tea with honey, that's the source of the Canadian diva's appeal. Since her debut less than 15 years ago, McLachlan has taken the formula for her success (lush, layered pop arrangements that surround her voice like a velvet gown) and run with it. *Afterglow* (Arista), her first studio album since '97's *Surfacing*, contains no surprises, which is somewhat disappointing.

A Gap ad, a children's book, pseudo-same-sex kisses on MTV and a movie career that's the source of more than a few jokes: Madonna is one busy mother (of two). Her music career, once the model of things creative and cutting-edge (if a bit heavy in the shameless self-promotion department), continues its rapid descent into oblivion. The seven-song EP *Remixed & Revisited* (Maverick/Warner Bros.) proba-

bly won't do much to repair the damage. Collectors of Madonna memorabilia will probably want this EP for "Like a Virgin/Hollywood Medley" featuring Christina Aguilera (say, that girl can sing!), Britney Spears (say, that girl can't!) and the ubiquitous Missy Elliott, as well as the previously unreleased track "Your Honesty." Sadly, nothing leaves enough of an impression to make it worthwhile. Remix, revisit, remake, remodel. Why not just retire?

Three of LeAnn Rimes's biggest hits, "Blue," "How Do I Live," and "Can't Fight the Moonlight," which can be found on the considerable *Greatest Hits* (Curb) collection, are examples of her versatility, which is especially notable considering her age. When her debut album (containing the country gem "Blue") was released, Rimes wasn't yet 14 years old. In the years since then, Rimes has sung duets with Elton John and Ronan Keating, had hits in the country realm, made cover tunes her own, co-written a song with

gay songwriting superstar Desmond Child, had a dance-club hit and belted out a movie theme-song power ballad. All before reaching 21.



April March (aka American-born Elinore Blake) scores a bulls-eye with her chic French chanteuse act on her new album *Triggers* (PIAS/Tricatel). These French-pop tarts have the potential to make the sexy boys of *Air* envious. The all too-brief title track is a shot of disco love, and "There Is Always Madness" is the musical answer to practically every question. ▼

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## THEATRE

## Fruit oops



The national tour of gay act The Oops Guys has brought them to locales like the Duplex in NYC and the Red Barn Theatre in Key West. Now it brings them to the San Francisco Sketch Comedy Festival on Sunday, Jan. 11, at the Eureka Theatre, in an act called *Asian Sings the Blues*. The Oopers are "diva of bad cabaret" Fiely A. Matias and "neurotic sidekick" Dennis T. Giacino, together performing such timeless lounge classics as "I'll Be Here for You (The Stalking Song)" and "Wet Sand in my Suit."

The 2004 SF Sketchfest also features the Meehan Brothers and others, Jan. 11, 8 p.m. at the Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St. Tickets (\$15): (866) 468-3399 or ticketweb.com. ▼

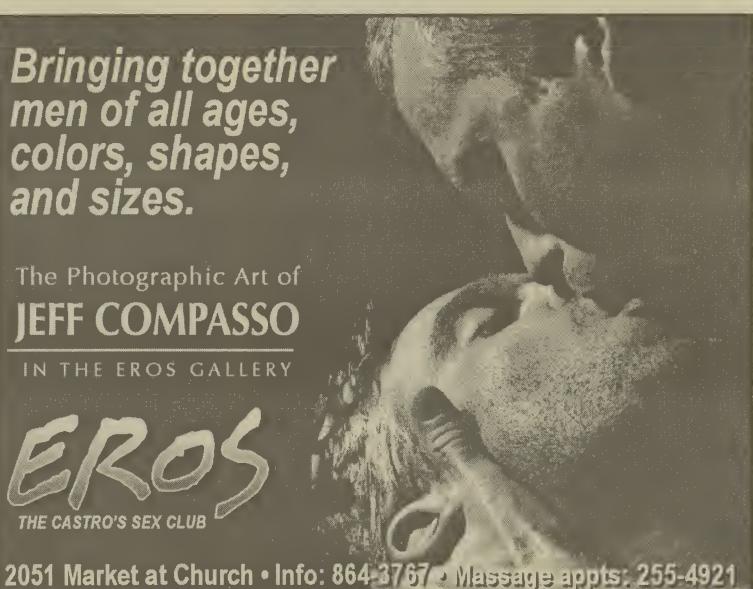
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# The tradition continues

## Leather lifestyle celebrations abound in SF

by Mister Marcus

When it comes to traditions, San Francisco is in no way lacking. Consider such events as the Leather Daddy and boy contests, the Mr. SF Leather competition, the Leather Walk, the raising of the Leather Pride Flag, the Golden Dildeaux Awards, the Leather/Levi Weekend, the Motorcycle Awards, and Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Sea-Son" to mention just a few.

It seems like only yesterday the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar made its debut for 1985. The contests were held at the Arena Bar and shortly thereafter moved to the Eagle. A few of the contests were held at Harvey's in the Disastro, and now the permanent home is at the Powerhouse Bar. The 2005 calendar marks the 20th anniversary of a project that has raised thousands and thousands of dollars for the AIDS Emergency Fund and, most recently, for the Positive Resource Center.

The 2005 calendar competition kicks off next Thursday, January 16 at the Powerhouse. But this year, the competitions will not name Mr. January, Mr. February etc. Instead, the judges will decide on one or more winners for each contest. At the end of the 12 contests, there could be as many as 36 contenders vying for 12 spots. Most of the judges will be last year's calendar men plus one member at large.

The contest dates are as follows, all on Thursdays at the Powerhouse at 2200 (that's 10 p.m.): January 15, 22 and 29; February 5, 19 and 26; March 4, 18 and 25; April 1, 15 and 22. More dates later.

If you think you've got what it takes, be at the Powerhouse at least by 2130 on any of the above dates. I know at least a half-dozen men who want to be on the 20th Anniversary edition of the calendar! Don't you want to be too?

### First Sunday in January

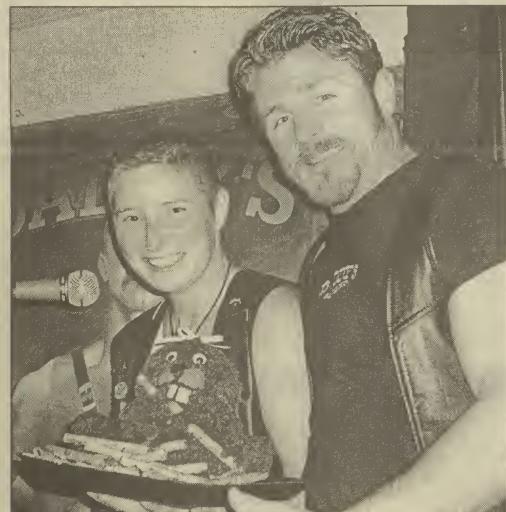
Five of the 2003 Bare Chest Calendar Men performed their last official task when they were offered up for dinner dates at the annual dinner date auction in the Eagle Tavern patio. Lenny Broberg performed once again ("I can sell sand

next page ▶



Mister Marcus

2004 Bare Chest Calendar cover man Chris Harrell was auctioned off for a dinner date for \$2,000 by auctioneer Lenny Broberg at the Eagle Tavern last Sunday, January 4. The total raised at the event to benefit the AEF and PRC: \$6,500!



Mister Marcus

SF Dyke Boy "Shayne" challenges Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn to eat her "beaver" at her fundraiser at Daddy's last Sunday, January 4. Mr. Marshburn managed to "nibble" a piece or two.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, January 9-11

Fetish Fair and Fleamarket at the Boston Park Plaza in Bean Town. Lots of schmoozing and bar-gains. For info: [www.nla-newengland.org.fff.html](http://www.nla-newengland.org.fff.html)

In San Diego, it's "Edge Fest 2004" with a meet-&-greet on Friday; Edge Play workshops on Saturday from 1500-1800, followed by a play party. On Sunday, more workshops from 1200 to 1800. Email [info@clubxsd.org](mailto:info@clubxsd.org).

### Saturday, January 10

Book release party of Painfully Obvious by Robert Davolt from 1600 to 1900 at Daddy's Bar, with refreshments and all the hullabaloo of a book signing.

Sacramento Valley Leathermen install their new officers tonight at the Bolt at 2000. Bar hop and return to the Bolt. For more info, [www.svclub.org](http://www.svclub.org).

### Sunday, January 11

Leather Rap meeting for the Leather Contingent in the 2004 Pride Parade in June. Be there at 1300 on the Eagle Tavern patio and make your views known — or forever hold your tongue!

### Tuesday, January 13

Bondage Buddies get "all tied up" at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules! If not, call 415-777-HEAD.

### Thursday, January 16

The first Bare Chest Calendar contest of the year kicks off, and one or more men will be selected to compete for a spot on the calendar later this year. The fun starts at 2130 at the Powerhouse. Got it? Flaunt it!

### Weekend, January 16-19

Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2004 will be chosen on Sunday of this 3-day weekend with leather folk from around the world in attendance in Washington, DC. For info: [www.leatherweekend.com](http://www.leatherweekend.com) or call 1-800-494-8497.

Second contest of nine in the Southland to pick Mr. Oil Can Harry's in Studio City. Winner advances to compete at Mr. L.A. Leather 2004 in March.

ACLC's annual Leather Elegance dinner event at Elio's Banquet Room in San Leandro. Donation is \$33 and available at [www.frantix.net](http://www.frantix.net) OR by calling 1-866-372-6849. Raffle for DVD player.

# Chunkies and hunkies

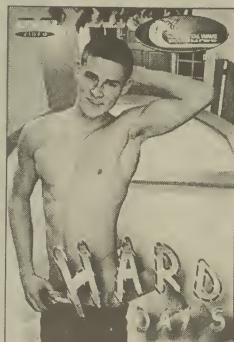
by John F. Karr

There's much about *Hard Days'* packaging that warns: Trying to slip one over. For starters, there's that unwarranted apostrophe. Makes you ask, a hard day's what? when you know they mean *Hard Days*. I almost put the movie down right there — where is it written that pornographers are exempt from grammatical acuity? There's an even greater packaging mishap, however: American names on the outside, and Czech boys on the inside. Anathema!

I've found Czech porn generally lame in technique, and populated with farmers whose combination of sturdy and blond can't offset their robotic performances. Would I have watched the movie if I'd somehow found, way down in the teeny, tiny copyright notice at the bottom of the box, the tell-tale words, "Prague, Czech Republic?" Or if I'd read the press release, not supplied to the general consumer, with the give-away news that the movie was produced in conjunction with the expatriate Tsar of Tzsch porn, William Higgins? Probably not.

Which would have been my loss. For, despite *Hard Days'* sometimes meandering approach, I wasn't immune to either the charms of its Czech chunkies or the unassuming, pleasant mood it conveys. Strange to call porn pleasant and mean it as a compliment, but there you are. The cast is comprised of city-bred boys. They're young, but not twinks. Freshmen, I'd say. Smooth, fresh-cheeked, slender and naturally built. They come together casually — there's 12 minutes of half-assed working out and striking of poses in a makeshift gym before any actual sex occurs, and, later, six minutes of uneventful splashing in a Jacuzzi. But I grew to like this playful, non-overly sexual cavorting — at one moment, they compare hard-ons; at another, giggle over a porn magazine. It's refreshing.

The star is "Robert Wild." He's



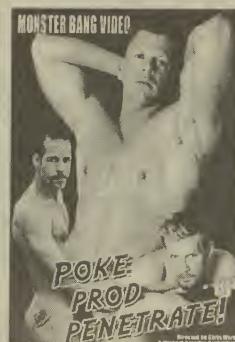
got spiky blond hair, with whispers of downy blond fur on his legs and ass. He's a little husky, with a nicely muscular build. He turns out to be an entertaining bottom, riding the cocks of both his friends in an opening threeway, and then revealing equal skill as a top in a subsequent duet. The cute box-cover boy is featured sitting, all smiles, on the surprisingly

appreciable cocks of his two friends after the Jacuzzi has relaxed and the magazine aroused. There are no subtiles and no credits for *Hard Days'* (well, there's nothing I can do about that apostrophe; it's just there). It's boyish and breezy; and then suddenly, the sex goes, Wham! [www.arenaentinc.com](http://www.arenaentinc.com); (818) 985-3224

## Rear delivery

Here's the other side of the coin: men who don't mess around. Monster Bang Video's *Poke, Prod, Penetrate!* starts off in such a fucking frenzy that it'll be quite a while before you realize that's all it is. A fucking frenzy. All anal. No cocksucking at all, buddy. But you won't miss it. How could you, when this offshoot of Raging Stallion delivers a sensational cast throwing over two hours of absolutely amazing power-fucks right in your face.

Rick Hammersmith, a solid



muscle-hunk and vigorous bottom, feeds the feast, sitting on virile Damien Ford's truly fat wang for a real thrill-ride, and swallowing up his hole first a dildo replication of Michael Brandon's famed Monster cock, and then the real thing. Matt Sizemore takes his turn with Rick, and Brandon and Ford return for a smashing five-man finale. The energy, the brawn and blast of this movie have no let-up. Some people think *The Big Bang* is just a theory. In *Poke, Prod, Penetrate!*, it's all there.

Raging Stallion's *Downright Dangerous* is an exciting encore, continuing in the same mode, with some of the same stars, but throwing cocksucking back into the mix, as well as a couple of sensational newcomers.

Here's how it starts: Rick Hammersmith's lover is dropping him off at a sex club. "Throw me in there, Dad," Hammersmith pants. "I want the whole fucking room to do me."

And do him they do. Lotsa chest-punchin', spit-in-the-face, bruiser-style sex play. No preliminaries, no downtime; it's all slam-bang. Note this: now that Matt Sizemore is performing in bareback movies, this pair of thrillers may be his last mainstream appearances. Thank god he made them for director Chris Ward's team. And note this: Rick Hammersmith in a Reverse Cowboy that has his cock propelling so hard and furious you think he'd helicopter right through the ceiling. Yow! [www.ragingstallion.com](http://www.ragingstallion.com); (877) 327-0707 ▼

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

in the desert") with auctioning that brought in a whopping \$6,500 for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resource Center.

Despite the frigid weather, Coverman Chris garnered some \$2,000, and a team (David Caranza and Rod Blair) from Leather Masters in San Jose swooped in with cash in hand and outbid everyone in sight. This was

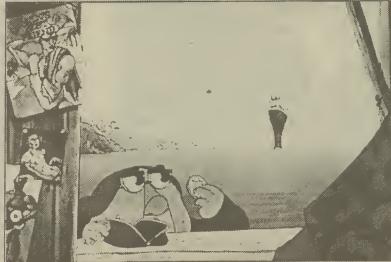
the last official act of the calendar men and a whole new crop will be selected

Over at Daddy's, Dyke Girl Shayne was hosting a fundraiser with entertainment by Darryl Jensen and Snatch. Snatch was like a pious saint compared to Darryl's raunchy performance — all in good fun. Ms. Shayne produced a beaver (a chocolate cake) that she dared any man to eat and good sport Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn took to the task with judicial aplomb. The place was in

stitches! Cold, cold all over the Bay Area last Sunday but the "faithful" turned out to make it all a whopping success.

Everyone, that is except for Don "Ho" Tse who has a mystery "ailment" that precludes him from drinking alcohol. If you've got money invested in Smirnoff Vodka and/or Kahlua, suggest you sell it quick. With Mr. "Ho" not being able to drink, sales of both beverages in the SF Bay Area have fallen off drastically and liquor distributors are panicking already! ▼

## Broken bicycles



**S**ylvain Chomet's acclaimed animated feature, *The Triplets of Belleville*, tells a picaresque tale entirely through a dense visual landscape, humor, the skillful use of music, and almost no dialogue. Our hero cyclist Champion trains rigorously for the Tour de France, but during the race he is kidnapped by some French Mafiosi and spirited over the sea to the Gothic-esque city of Belleville for nefarious purposes. His stalwart grandmother Madame Souza and faithful dog Bruno set out to rescue their Champion from his evil captors. In the scene pictured here, Madame Souza rents a paddleboat to pursue the steamer heading toward the horizon. Apparently the harbormaster has a thing for muscle magazines. Now playing and worth seeing. ▼

MONSTER BANG VIDEO

**POKE PROD PENETRATE!**

Directed by Chris Ward & Michael Brandon Photography

**m4m4sek.com**

**STEAMWORKS PARTY**  
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**01.15.04**  
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## BLOW BUDDIES

**Bondage Buddies**

**Tues.**

**Jan. 13**

**door 8-11pm  
play 'til 1 or 2am**

**Golden**

**Shower**

**Buddies**

**Wed.**

**Jan. 14**

**door 8-11pm  
play 'til 1 or 2am**



**Blow Buddies  
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Cum meat a  
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**(415) 777-HEAD**  
**www.blowbuddies.com**  
**South of Market - 933 Harrison St (@ 5th)**

drawing (c) Kra Smith (kra.smith@aol.com)

# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Lauren Crux in "Three"

### WOW again!

**A**rtistic Director Mary Alice Fry of Footloose Presents @ Venue 9 has steadfastly produced women's theater despite a paucity of publicity and while valiantly fighting to keep her theater alive while searching for a new home to inhabit once Footloose finally relinquishes its long-time South of Market abode. This Thursday, January 15, the venerable Venue 9 will serve one last time as a community focal point as Footloose kicks off the *Fourth Annual Women on the Way Festival*, with a special "Opening Night Gala and WOW Benefit" offering multiple temptations.

There will be a reception in the lobby, a gallery for "No Limits for Women in the Arts," and samples of performances by all the WOW artists participating in the 12-day fest (Jan. 15-18, 22-25, and 29-Feb. 1). Among the treats will be *Dual Nature: Love, Attachment and Betrayal* by Deborah Crooks; *Aqua* by Rebecca Pappas and Dancers; *L'Heure Verte* by Dance Elixir, choreographed by Leyya Tawil; *Taiko Diary — Songs from Our Hearts* performed by the SF Women's Drum Troupe; *Without Ourselves, 5 Verses on Digital Identity* by Elsewhere Troupe; and *Mountains and Rivers Without End* by Anima Mundi Dance Company.

*L'Heure Verte (The Green Hour)* by Dance Elixir, choreographed by Leyya Tawil, is an intoxicating movement suite inspired by the emerald liqueur absinthe, which symbolized decadence, sensuality and glamour in early 20th-century France.

*Dual Nature: Love, Attachment and Betrayal* by urban folk musician Deborah Crooks is a new song cycle that examines the point where love ends and aversion begins. Crooks' debut CD, *5 Acres*, was produced by Roberta Donnay.

The multimedia work *Without Ourselves, 5 Verses on Digital Identity*, by Elsewhere Troupe, consists of five music pieces with synchronized video, arranged for two voices, piano and electronics. It's a humorous extrapolation of technophobic nightmares, a 21st century extension of Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*.

The Anima Mundi Dance Company, choreographed by Kathryn Roszak, offers *Mountains and Rivers Without End* with imagery of real and mythical landscapes. Christopher Castle's musical score conveys earthiness, intellect and passion. The piece was developed at the Magic Theatre and at Yoshi's Jazz House in Oakland.

Tickets for each show are \$15-\$20 sliding. Showtime is 8 p.m. (7 p.m. Sun.). Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (between Folsom & Howard). Tickets: 289-2000; [www.venue9.com](http://www.venue9.com)



Local women's artist collective The Big Ballyhoo mark the 20th Anniversary of The LAB, San Francisco's original cutting-edge experimental art space. See Friday.

## Fri

### The Big Ballyhoo @ The LAB

Opening reception: "Inside of Inside," curated by local women's artist collective, The Big Ballyhoo, marking the 20th Anniversary of the innovative arts/performance space The LAB. The exhibit will transform the gallery into a radical new definition of home, with life-size and miniature rooms examining how class, environment, illness, safety and homelessness impact what we view as home, while collective content from more than 60 artists offers a vision of what a future based on justice might look like. The Big Ballyhoo is committed to creating opposition to what they see as a mainstream media overrun by big business and corporate sponsorship. Artists include Tammy Rae Carland, Xyle Jane, Isis Rodriguez, Nicole Repack, Marisa Jahn and Mary Elizabeth Barrough. The month-long exhibition will include related events on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm at Theatre Rhinoceros. Opening Reception: 6-9pm. Gallery Hours: Wednesdays-Saturdays, 1-6pm (extended hours on Thursdays, 6-7pm and by appointment). The LAB, 2948 16th St. Info: [www.yerbabuenaarts.org](http://www.yerbabuenaarts.org)

**'The Death of Meyerhold'** @ Julia Morgan Center, Berkeley  
Continuing run: Shotgun Players present *The Death of Meyerhold*, written and directed by Mark Jackson. A tragedy with a smile on its lips. The place is Russia, the man is Meyerhold. The sheer power of his art and times will thrill and astound you. Featuing Andy Alabian, Cassidy Brown, Kevin Clarke, Reid Davis, Patrick Dooley, Natalie Grant-Villegas, Richard Louis James, Dave Maier (Actors Equity), Isabelle Ortega, Benjamin Privitt, Beth Wilmurt and Clive Worsley. \$18 (\$12 student; \$10 Thursdays/Seniors). 8pm (7pm Sun). Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tix: 510-704-8210; [www.shotgunplayers.org](http://www.shotgunplayers.org)

**'The Squall'** @ ATA  
From out of the blustery Northeast it's *The Squall!* Hurricanes of experimentation reined in with tactical lassos. Familiar stories, cinematic gestures and related miscellany are retrofit with alien viewpoints in this curious, often hilarious selection of video shorts from the outer regions of NY. Including exciting sights from Jeremy Bailey, Rosy Boyer, Carl Diehl, Wago Kreider and others. Plus live performance by Madera Road. \$5, 8pm. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St (at 21st St). Info: 824-3890; [www.alta-site.org](http://www.alta-site.org)

### 'Unnatural Born Killers' @ YBCA Screening Room

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents "Unnatural Born Killers," a film series curated by Steven Jay Schneider, with shows on Jan. 9, 23 & 30. These serial killer films reveal a shocking diversity of conventions, styles, characterizations and approaches. Tonight: 7pm show: *The Sadist* by James Landis (1963; 95min;

35mm). This low-budget suspense film stars Arch Hall Jr. as a young psycho who terrorizes three teachers held captive at a roadside gas station. 9pm show: *Every Day God Kisses Us on the Mouth* (2001; 93 min, 35mm) by Simona Dragin, a parable about brutality in Romania after the fall of Communism. The film explores the emotional and spiritual possibilities open to a man who is crippled by self-hatred and isolation. \$7 gen'; \$4 senior/student/Center members. 901 Mission St. At Third. Info: 978-2787; [www.yerbabuenaarts.org](http://www.yerbabuenaarts.org)

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### 'H.M.S. Pinafore' @ Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Lamplighters Music Theatre presents Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Come sail the ocean blue with some of G&S's favorite characters: The beautiful Josephine, the lovesick Ralph Rackstraw, the surly Dick Deadeye, the incomparably incompetent Sir Joseph Porter and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts! Directed by Kit Wilder. Lamplighters Music Director Baker Peoples conducts the Lamplighters Orchestra. Audience favorite F. Lawrence Ewing reprises the role of Sir Joseph Porter, the hilariously smug political appointee in charge of the Royal Navy, with David Mialovich and Gregory Title alternating as the lovesick sailor Ralph Rackstraw; Will Connolly and William Neely share the role of the Captain of the Pinafore. Jennifer Ashworth plays Josephine, the Captain's daughter, torn between her love for Ralph and her desire for security and social status. With Michele Krapp as "Little Buttercup," Christine

### 'The Man Who Laughs'/The Zag Men @ ATA

Trash Fish Entertainment Corp. presents Paul Leni's 1928 almost-a-masterpiece *The Man Who Laughs* (100 min; 35mm). This silent film stars Lon Chaney as Sir Joseph's Cousin Hebe, Charles Martin as the villainous Dick Deadeye, and Steve Bower as the Boatswain's Mate. \$25-\$40 (\$10-\$15 age 15 & under). 8pm Also playing Sat., Jan. 10, 8pm; Sun., Jan. 11, 2pm; Wed., Jan. 14, 8pm ("Pay what you can night") — any remaining tickets go on sale at the box office at 7pm; first come first served for whatever you can afford to pay. No advance sales on "pay what you can" basis; regular advance sales available; Thu., Jan. 15, 8pm; Fri., Jan. 16, 8pm; Sat., Jan. 17, 2pm; Sat., Jan. 17, 8pm; and Sun., Jan. 18, 2pm. (Performances continue in Walnut Creek Jan. 22-25). Tix: 978-2787; [www.lamplighters.org](http://www.lamplighters.org)

### 'Queer Ballroom Party' @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs presents a "Queer Ballroom Party" with salsa and swing dancing, 7pm & 8pm lessons; 9pm-midnight dance party. \$10 door (half off for those under 21). SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info: [www.queerbalcony.com](http://www.queerbalcony.com)

### 'Dreamgirls'

#### @ San Jose Center

Opening night: American Musical Theatre of San Jose presents Frenchie Davis, the popular singer dismissed amidst much public outcry from television's *American Idol* earlier this year, in the six-time Tony Award-winning musical *Dreamgirls*, based on the rise of The Supremes. A case of life imitating art imitating life, Davis will play the role of Effie, the spurned singer who is ousted from a rising girl group when her personal image clashes with the group's ambition. Lyrics by Tom

Frenchie Davis gets drop-kicked out of a girl band in *Dreamgirls* at San Jose Center. See Saturday.

Laughs, cut up and defaced by rock-and-roll anarchist band The Zag Men (TFFC Records). In this newly butchered version of the film, the original Movieline score has been discarded in favor of metal-improv dissonance. More than half an hour of important footage has been cut. The film's two reels are reversed in order. You get the picture... or maybe not! *The Man Who Laughs* stars Conrad Veidt, Mary Philbin, and Madonna impersonator Olga Bananova. \$5, 8pm.

**Eyen**; music by Henry Krieger. Directed by Mark S. Hoebee. The stellar cast also includes Angela Robinson, Ramona Keller, and David Jennings. \$44.50-\$75.50. 8pm. Shows Tue-Fri thru Jan. 25. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd., San Jose. Tix: 888-455-SHOW (7469); [www.sjcenter.org](http://www.sjcenter.org)

### 'Writers With Drinks' @ Make Out Room

"Writers With Drinks," A spoken word variety show and fundraiser for other magazine ([www.othermag.org](http://www.othermag.org)), the magazine of pop culture and politics for the new outcasts. Featuring novelist Paul Reidering (*The City Kid, Good Boys, Intimate Evil* and *The Best Man*); Tricia Rose, author of *Longing To Tell: Black Women Talk About Sexuality and Intimacy and Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America*; Julia Serano, guitarist-singer-songwriter for the group Bitesize, organizer of the Gender Enders spoken word series; comedian Ronna Vigh (*Stood Up; Comic-Kazoo*); queer mixed-race Arab American tranny slacktivist Nadylee, whose work has appeared in the anthologies *Hot Off the Net, Generation Q and Trikone*; and Keckler (aka Stephanie Vander Weide) who summarizes episodes of *Star Trek Enterprise* and other cult shows for [televisionwithapathy.com](http://www.televisionwithapathy.com). \$3-\$5 sliding. 7:30-9:30pm (doors open 7pm). 3225 22nd St. (btwn Mission & Valencia). Info: [www.writerswithdrinks.com](http://www.writerswithdrinks.com)

## Sat

### 'The Man Who Laughs'/The Zag Men @ ATA

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## Sun

### 'Wicked Messenger' @ El Rio

Frankie Tenderloin and Sheri Connolly host "Wicked Messenger," a 21st century kabaret. Featuring retro pop stars The Who Nellies; poetry godhead Daphne Gottlieb; upstart homo-hop with Stop Looking At My Boyfriend (*Lynne Breedlove & Sky*); the risky kinging of The Danger Brothers; verbal hellfire from Satanic Apache The Reverend Steve Johnson Leyba; the real thing from Burlesque-ese; erstwhile punk icon Jennifer Bloodsweat; dreamy dragore supergroup Frankie Tenderloin & The Rent Boys; platters that matter spun by DJ Verse; and an open mic. \$5-\$7 (NOTAFLOF; a collection will be taken for Raelyn Gallina's cancer treatment). Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. 21+ w/ID. El Rio, 3158 Mission (at Precita). Info: [www.elrios.com](http://www.elrios.com)

### 'Gay & Lesbian Sierrans potluck'

Join Gay and Lesbian Sierrans (GLS) for a Bernal Hill brunch potluck, followed by a walk

David Sedaris reads from his latest life episode in a Word for Word/ACWLP for Books presentation at the Unitarian Church. See Wednesday.

around Bernal Hill's famous stairs. Bring brunch item to share. Coffee & tea available. Brunch starts 10am. Call leader for directions to brunch location: 401-8426.

#### 'Journey to Mars' @ Exploratorium

Enjoy classic space animation with live music accompaniment by Nik Phelps as the Exploratorium screens *A Trip to the Moon* (1903; 10 min.) and other short films as part of the interactive museum's "Journey to Mars" weekend of special events, highlighting the recent historic events in Mars exploration. George Melies' *A Trip to the Moon* captures the spirit of human ingenuity and desire for exploration.

Screening at 3pm in the McBean Theater. At 2pm in the Phyllis C. Wattis Webcast Studio, catch the "Journey to Mars" Webcast of "Myths," exploring their myths, misconceptions and urban legends about Mars. \$12 adults; \$9.50 senior/disabled/youth; \$8 children ages 4-12; under 4 free. Palace of Fine Arts, Marina District. 10am-5pm Tue-Sun. Info: 415-EXP-LORE; [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)

#### Same-Sex Latin Dance Lessons @ Metronome Ballroom

"Same Sex International Standard/Latin Program," Latin Level 1, 3-4pm, taught by Richard Lambert (Jan., Rumba; Feb., Cha-Cha; Mar., Samba; Apr., Jive). Standard Level 1, 4-5pm, also taught by Lambert (Jan., Waltz; Feb., Foxtrot; Mar., Tango; Apr., Quickstep. \$199 quarterly; \$64 monthly (for either Latin or Standard). Both classes: \$398 quarterly; \$128 monthly. Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th St. Info: 252-9000; [www.metronomeballroom.com](http://www.metronomeballroom.com)

## Mon 12

#### Julia Jackson @ QComedy

QComedy presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy" at the LGBT Community Center. This week hosted by Julia Jackson, with Scott Capurro, Ray Ferrier, Laura Swisher, Angie Kras, Ronn Vigh, Blair Butler, Alana Devich, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding (NOT-A-TFLOP). 7:30pm doors; 8pm show. SFLGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 541-5610; [www.QComedy.com](http://www.QComedy.com)

#### Juana Guzman of LeS Vos @ Modern Times Bookstore

QueLACo, a nonprofit organization serving LGBT Latina/o artists, and Modern Times Bookstore present a reception and reading by Juana Guzman, founder and editor of LeS Vos, a magazine for lesbians published out of Mexico City. In Spanish with English translation provided. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 282-9246; [moderntimesbookstore.com](http://moderntimesbookstore.com); [quelac.org](http://quelac.org)

#### 'Earplay Reveals the Unheard' @ YBCA Forum

Earplay continues its 19th season with "Earplay Reveals the Unheard," featuring three works based upon poetry. Presenting the world premiere of "Swirling Streams," a one-movement work that oscillates between gradually unfolding streams of sound and whirling successions of events, with David Tanenbaum on guitar, Peter Joseph on clarinet, conducted by Mary Chun, with string trio (Terrie Baune, Ellen Ruth Rose and Thalia Moore) by Jorge Liderman. Plus *Orpheus* (world premiere/Earplay commission) by Louis Karcher, based upon Stanley Kunitz's *Poet Laureate*, 2000-01 poem "In the Dark House." The legend is recreated through dance (Angela Jones & L. Jonathan Collins) with baritone Dominic Inferrera singing the story. Conducted by Mary Chun. The oldest piece in the evening is a tribute to gay composer Lou Harrison with his *Songs in the Forrest* featuring Tod Brody on flute, Lisa Weiss on violin, Ward Spangler on percussion, and Karen Rosenak on piano. \$18 gen'; \$12 members/students. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm; show at 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, The Forum, 701 Mission St. Tix: 978-ARTS; [www.yerbabuenaarts.org](http://www.yerbabuenaarts.org)



It's Pink vs. The Vines as DJs Adrian and the Mysterious D present "Bootie" at Cherry Bar. See Wednesday.

## Tue 13

#### Gene Wilder @ Herbst Theatre

City Arts & Lectures presents actor Gene Wilder in person, with clips of his movies and conversation on stage with Roy Eisenhardt. Wilder made his debut debut in 1967's *Bonnie and Clyde* with Warren Beatty. He earned an Oscar nomination for his next movie, *The Producers*, the first of his many collaborations with Mel Brooks, including *Young Frankenstein* (1974) and *Blazing Saddles*. With comedian Richard Pryor he produced hit comedies including *Silver Streak* (1976) and *Stir Crazy* (1980). His heroes are Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. In 1984 Wilder married comedian Gilda Radner, who died of cancer in 1989. He has since remodeled. \$18.50. 8pm. Tix: 392-4400.

#### 'The Ring's Bondage Night' @ EROS

The second Monday of each month is "The Ring's Bondage Night" for bisexual and gay men. At these informal workshops men can see expert demos and get hands-on group practice in a safe setting. This first meeting of 2004 is geared for those interested in certain techniques or style. Show up if you want to those desires met.

Bring your bondage gear or your favorite device and invite a partner for hands-on practice during the mixer portion of the evening. 7:30-9:45pm (Entry is from 7 to 7:30 only, no late admission). 2051 Market St. (across from Safeway), near Church St. Info: [sf\\_ring@yahoo.groups.com](mailto:sf_ring@yahoo.groups.com); [www.sfeathercalendar.org](http://www.sfeathercalendar.org)

## Tue 13

#### Suspect Thoughts Press @ Modern Times Bookstore

Suspect Thoughts Press and Modern Times Bookstore present Matilda Sycamore Bernstein (Pulling Taffy), Greg Wharton (Johnny Was), Jennifer Natalya Fink (Burn) & Ian Phillips (Satyriasis). Suspect Thoughts Press founder and publisher Greg Wharton is author of *Johnny Was & Other Tall Tales*, a pome-Pinocchio island of misfit boys craving other misfit boys. Ian Phillips is the Lambda award winning author of *See Dick Deconstruct*. *Satyriasis*: *Literary 2*, Phillips' new collection of stories, leaves no prodigal son unspanked. Jennifer Natalya Fink is a writer, children's bookmaker, teacher, heli-rapper, and Brooklynite. Set amidst the sexual and political repression of the 1950s, *Burn* revisits familiar narratives of McCarthyism, Jewish socialism, and pedophilia, but from the rarely heard perspective of a menopausal immigrant woman. Matt Bernstein Sycamore's *Pulling Taffy* is a sharp and sparkling caricature of queens and k-holes, grandmothers and tricks, friends and freaks. All Suspect Thoughts Press Books 25% off during January. Free admission. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: [www.blue-period.com/booth/](http://www.blue-period.com/booth/)

## Wed 14

#### Robert Glück and Kathleen Fraser @ ACWLP for Books

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books presents a reading by novelist/story writer Robert Glück, along with poet Kathleen Fraser author of *The Unspeakable* (University of Alabama Press) and publisher/editor from 1983-91 of *HOTW(e)r*, a journal of innovative writing by contemporary women. Glück is leader of the queer pack when it comes to writers breaking new ground with fresh queer perspectives. He'll read from his latest creation, *Denny Smith (And Other Stories)* from Clear Cut Press. Says Samuel R. Delaney of *Denny Smith*: "These stories will generously reward language lovers, lovers of those who simply delight in watching subtleties of sensibility analyzed with concision and wit. To read them is to see, up-close and in color, what much of our contemporary world is, in its failings, in its pleasures, in its pathos and sexual richness." Free. 7pm. 601 Van Ness Ave.

#### Timmy Spence @ 'Trannyshack'

The oldest living drag queen, Timmy Spence, celebrates her birthday with "Ballroom Blitz," a night of glam rock. Hosted with Heklina, plus DJ Pinky Ring on tunes. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: [www.heklina.com](http://www.heklina.com)

#### 'A Time for Drunken Horses' @ ATA

International Answer presents *A Time for Drunken Horses* (2000; 80m; in Farsi & Kurdish w/English subtitles), described by *The Guardian* as: "A blazingly passionate, spiritual bulletin from a contemporary front-line of almost unimaginable hardship. Bhaman Ghobadi's movie is about a group of orphaned Kurdish children who live on the poverty line in a village near the Iran-Iraq border. Periodically, the children scramble aboard a truck to take them to Iraq to work in the market, or as foot-soldiers in various smuggling scams. That, or they transport heavy tires in the snow and terrible cold — backbreaking work for which they are routinely cheated of their pay, and for which the conditions are so appalling that the mules and horses have to be fed whisky to get them to work... This is a film with a fierce, spare, beautiful cinematic language." \$5. This is a film with a fierce, spare, beautiful cinematic language." \$5. This is a film with a fierce, spare, beautiful cinematic language." \$5.

## Wed 14

#### David Sedaris @ First Unitarian Universalist Church

Word for Word and A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books present seven consecutive nights of out-gay author David Sedaris reading from new and soon-to-be-published works. His forthcoming book, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, is due out in June from Little, Brown & Company. Sedaris slices through euphemisms and political correctness with his mastery of satire. His other hit books include *Naked*, *Holidays on Ice* and *Me Talk Pret-ty One Day*. \$30. 7:30pm. Thru Jan. 20. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400; [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)

## Brian Jungen @ CCA Logan Galleries

Opening reception: The CCA Logan Galleries presents "Capp Street Project: Brian Jungen." Vancouver based artist Jungen, a British Columbia native of mixed Swiss and First Nations heritage, often explores cultural stereotypes related to his First Nations background. His work includes the series of sculptures "Prototypes for New Understanding," startling evocations of Northwest Coast Indian masks whose swooping red-and-black shapes are made of disassembled Nike Air Jordan sneakers. He will create a new installation for his Capp Street Project/CCA residency. Jungen is a graduate of the prestigious Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver. His works are collected in the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Vancouver Art Gallery. Free. 7-8:30pm. California College of the Arts (CCA), Logan Galleries, 1111 Eighth St. Info: 551-9210; [www.wattis.org](http://www.wattis.org)

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Photo by Steven Denehy

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# Name that LGBT tune!

## 10 albums by queer performers out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

**D**angerous Liaisons (Us Too) is the sexually graphic and feverishly funny debut disc by gay hip-hop artist Johnny Dangerous. "Hot Johnny" is a laundry list of sexual exploits that's sure to scorch more than a few ears. In "Fagazine Interview," Johnny pulls no punches about the

"down-low brothers" he encounters when he's on tour. The remix of "Sugar Daddy" is a fierce workout that provides details about Johnny's sweet tooth. "Ball Busters" points a finger at all those who thinks it's cool to "hop beds," and "Not Your Average" pays a visit to the house of hip-hop.

I didn't expect to be taken for a ride on a country road on Tom Andersen's new CD *Who Knows?*



Tom Andersen: daring country

and early Erin McKeown. The Dolly Ranchers perform traditional-sounding originals such as "Maddie Girl Slim" and "Cholula" (as in, "Maria gets her cholula on the side/and when she walks away/she ain't hardly satisfied"), most with a queer stinger attached. Their cover of Hazel Dickens' "Don't Put Her Down, You Helped Put Her There" also show that they have done their research.

and Atomicbompcocketknife have openly gay men within their ranks. Che Arthur, who sounds like Husker Du-era Bob Mould, is a member of the Chicago band Atomicbompcocketknife. *Who Will Cut Our Hair When We're Gone?* (Alien 8) by The Unicorns features openly gay singer Alden Penner, and proves that there is a massive amount of cool queer music being made in Canada. Electronic flourishes enhance the guitars and drums on songs such as "Tuff Ghost."



Evil Beaver: mining the metal



Deidre McCalla: persuasive

### Meet 'n' eat

Queer female rockers continue to dominate, as new discs by Evil Beaver and Erase Errata attest. *Pleased To Eat You* (Johanns Face/Frothy Nation) finds the duo of Evin Evil (vocals and guitar) and Laura Ann Beaver (drums) still mining the metal ("Forbidden Fruit," "You Suck! Sucker") and even dabbling in some experimentation ("Sonny Side Up") that pays off for them. Left-Coasters Erase Errata could be graduates of the punk rock class of '77, but are more likely their children. Listen closely and you can hear echoes of Gang of Four and The Slits throughout *At Crystal Palace* (Trouble Man Unlimited). A challenging but rewarding album.

Gay men are also rocking out when they can. Frustrated Housewives have released an EP, *Boys Like Me* (Le Lipstick), with two edgy remixes of the Waitresses' "I Know What Boys Like" and the original Adam Baum tune "Trade." The bands The Unicorns

Some 30 years after the release of her debut album, *Fur Coats and Blue Jeans*, Deidre McCalla is back with her latest disc, *Playing for Keeps* (MaidenRock). Continuing to combine her persuasive political messages with folk, country, bluegrass and gospel arrangements, McCalla's latest is definitely a keeper. "For if God only knew/What's being done in Her name/She'd realize the humans/Have all gone insane."

LGBT choruses have been singing the songs of John Kander and Fred Ebb for years. Several of the duo's musical-theater creations (*Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*) have a queer sensibility and contain songs that are a good fit for queer choral groups. Boston Gay Men's Chorus, under the musical direction of Reuben M. Reynolds III, have released *Razzle Dazzle: The Broadway Hits of Kander & Ebb* ([bgmc.com](http://bgmc.com)), an entire CD of the pair's compositions. ▼

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## Irish weirdness

by Robert Julian

*Kilbrack* by Jamie O'Neill; Scribner, \$14

**W**ith the 2003 literary success of Jamie O'Neill's *At Swim, Two Boys*, the Irish author's 1990 novel, *Kilbrack*, is being re-released by Scribner. Like *Two Boys*, *Kilbrack* features a gay male protagonist who struggles for self-definition in a potentially hostile society. But *Kilbrack* is not the serious historical meditation on gay themes that O'Neill would later provide in *Two Boys*. It is, rather, a goof — a satirical romp through a fictional Irish backwater, complete with mistaken identity, amnesia, unrequited love, and a spooky old house occupied by a loony octogenarian.

O'Leary Montagu, age 36, is a complete neurotic. Eleven years after a mysterious accident left

him with no memory, he continues to search for his identity. The path Montagu chooses for self-revelation is to become a writer. But he is incapable of completing a novel or even a short story. He reads one book over and over again. It is a strange, self-published tome called *Ill Fares the Land* by someone named Nancy Valentine. His singular devotion to Valentine and her work leads Montagu on a pilgrimage to Kilbrack, the setting of her memoir. Once there, a wild cast of local characters takes Montagu on a truly merry chase toward self-knowledge and acceptance.

O'Neill's 1990 novel is charming and highly eccentric. Little mysteries unfold, one at a time, at a leisurely pace. And although this work has a contemporary setting, it has a distinctly other-worldly feel. Without its contemporary reference points, an American reader might assume that *Kilbrack* takes place at the beginning in-



stead of the end of the 20th century. O'Neill's prose style seems better employed in his historical later work, *Two Boys*, than in this earlier novel. But the fertile imagination and original voice that distinguish *Kilbrack* foreshadow greater work. Here Jamie O'Neill seems more than a bit weird — but anyone enamored of *At Swim, Two Boys* will not want to miss *Kilbrack*. ▼

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**Blow Buddies Friday Nov. 28**  
You bare-chested/shaved head, slim: me bare-chested with glasses. Would like to meet you. We cruised, but did not meet each other. ☎ 71000

**Ricardo**  
We met waiting for the "F" line at Castro about 7 pm. I was heading for an art opening. Let's continue our conversation. Ernie. ☎ 71001

**12/18 Park Hyatt PVT Party**  
You B-lender at ice bar. Great smile, handsome, friendly. Need to see you. Please call. ☎ 71031

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Seeking Friendship**  
GJM, 50 near Lake Merritt, seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. Over 21. ☎ 71010

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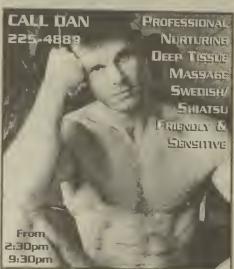
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## PERSONALS

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Hot 34 6FT2IN 165# Brn/Green-with strong hands & tight bod, gives full-body nude massage, safe calm & convenient Oakland location. In or out. Call for appointment \$80 and up. Ph: 510-415-7600.

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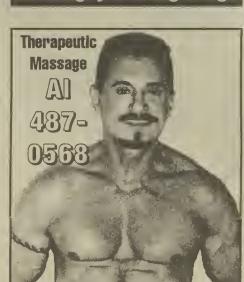
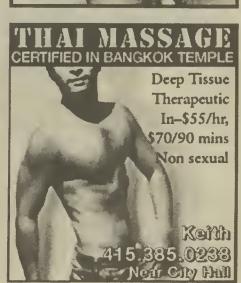
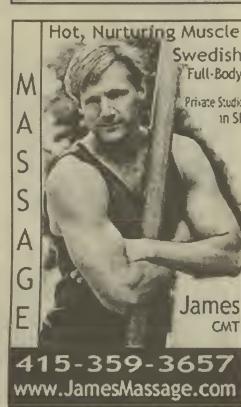
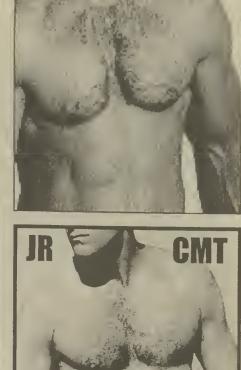
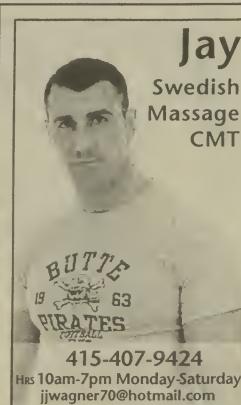
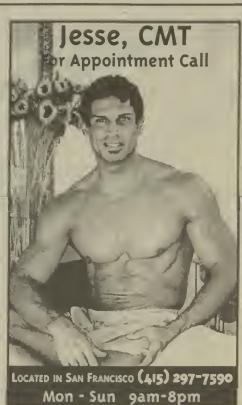
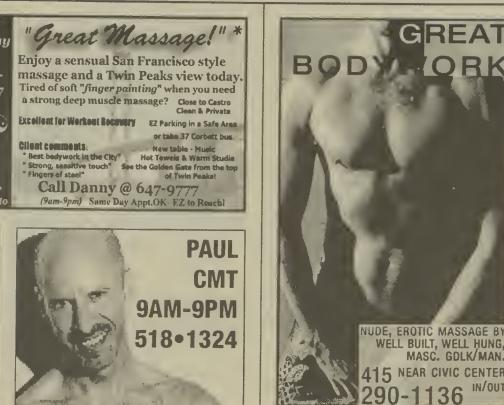
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Mexican 28y/o 5'5", 160"  
Masculine in Bay Area  
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warm hands, sensual touch, full body,  
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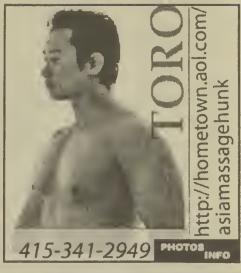
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Hotman 48 6' 165 S&P Beard, hung  
Erotic FullBody Massage In/Out  
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E05

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HOT

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Horny 23yo bottom/smooth 5'7"

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ASIAN TOP  
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E03-2004

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LET ME MAKE YOU SMILE!

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E05

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MASCULINE TOP MID 40s 6'3 185'  
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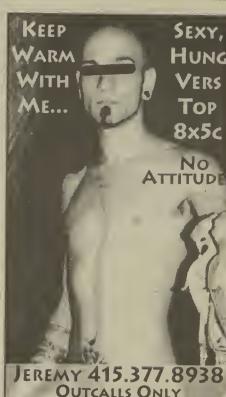
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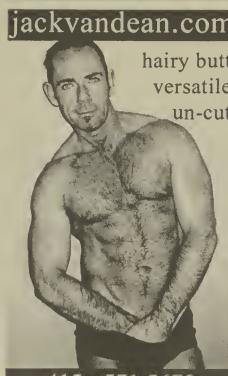
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5'7 140 with Xtra Thick 8" UC  
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6'1 215#, 8 1/2 cut, shvd head, 35

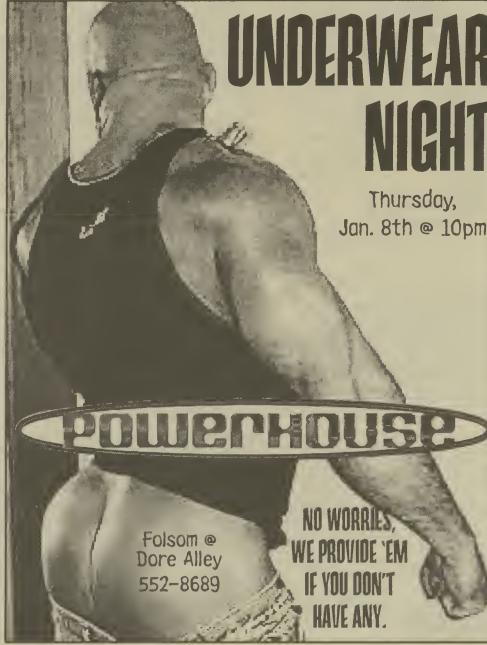
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NIGHT**

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5'11 170lbs Brwn Hair/Eyes  
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Hot/Hung Boyish-real. Call Now.

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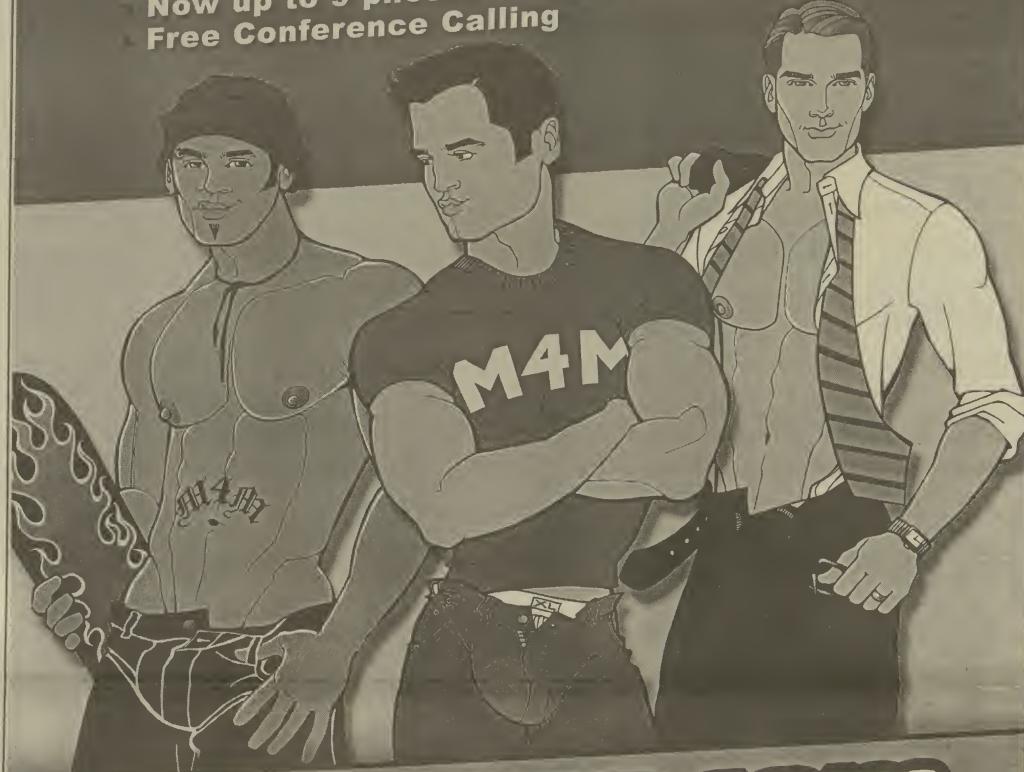
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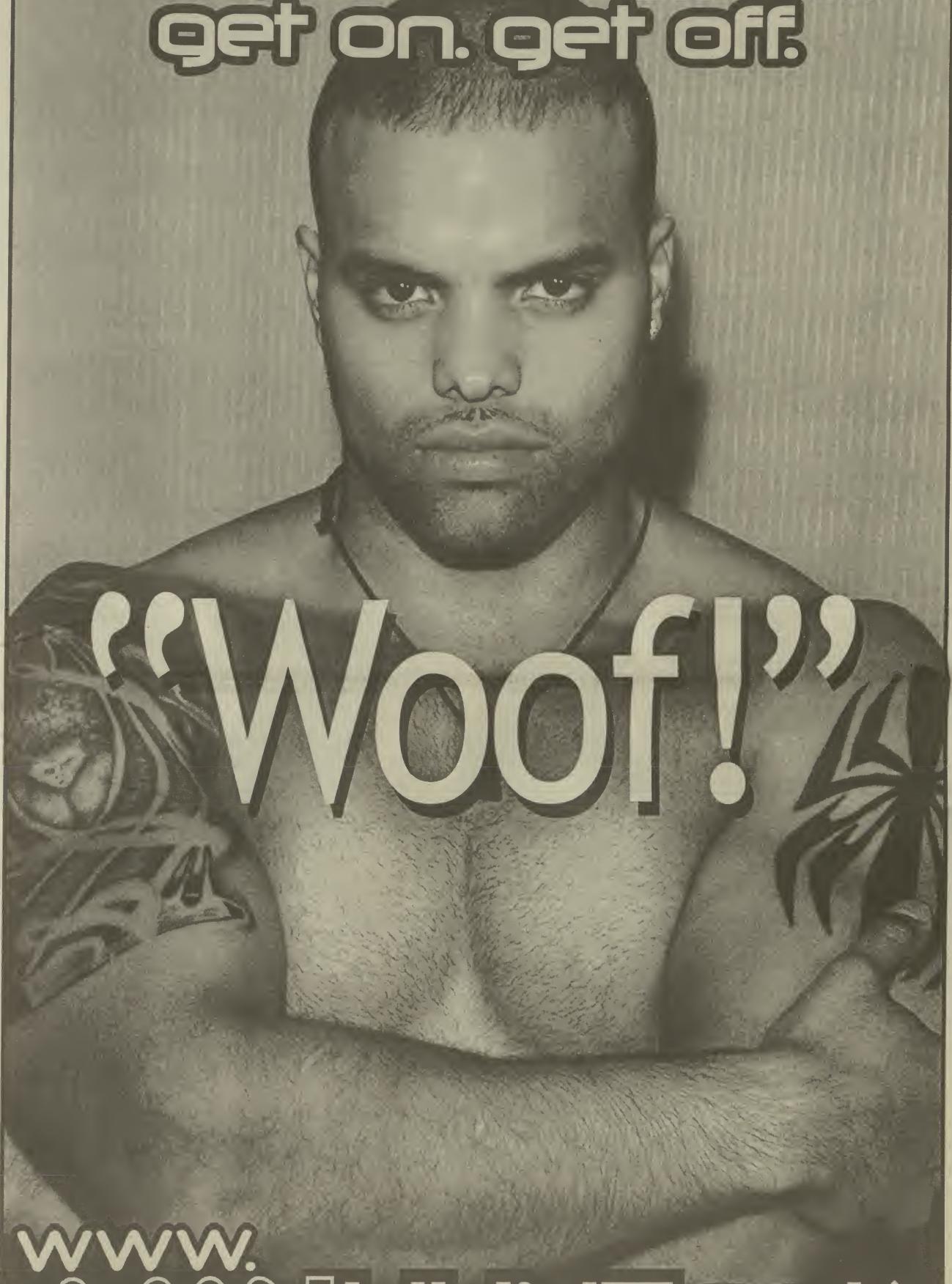
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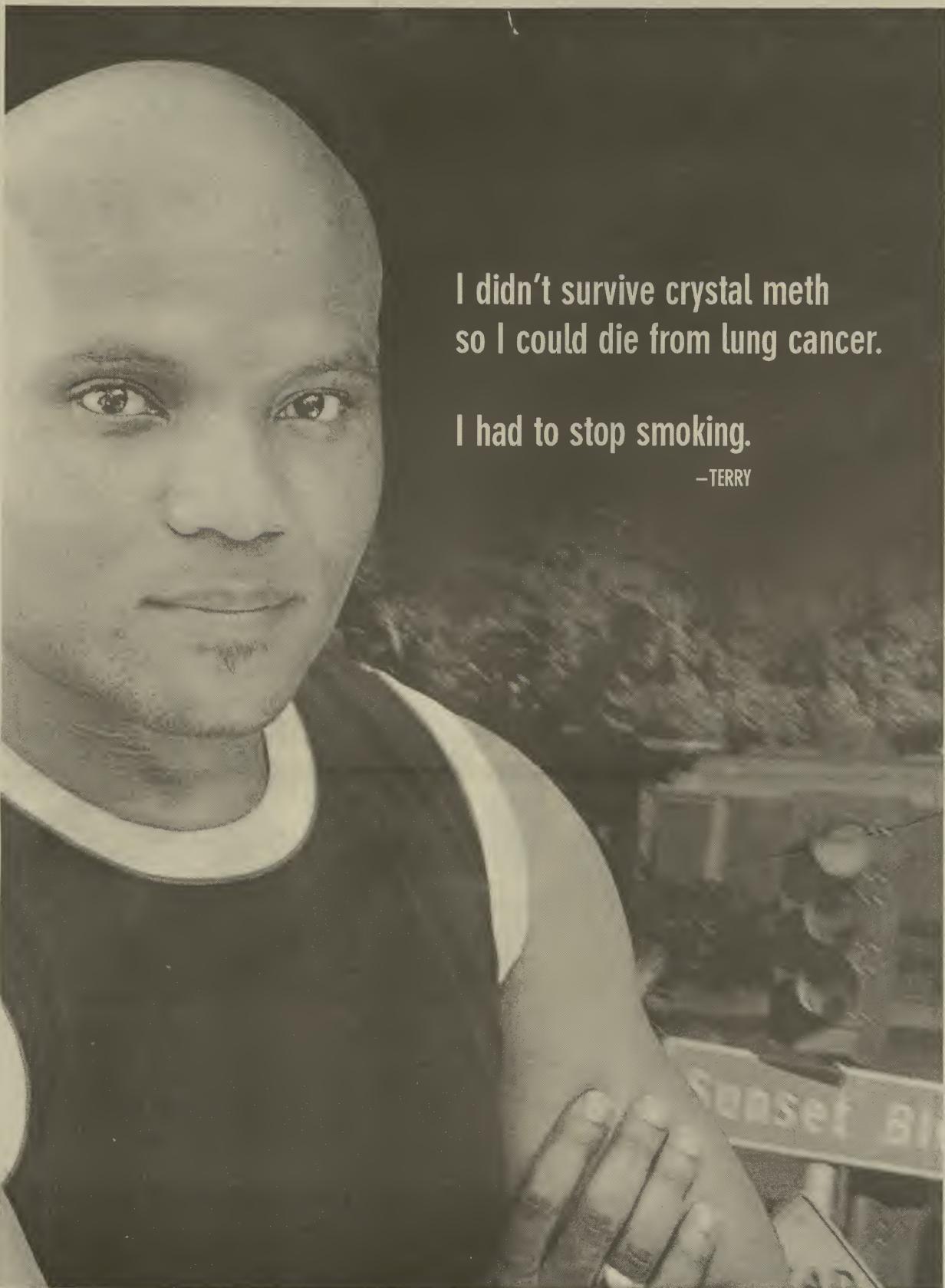


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